

## No date fixed for Cyprus conference

ANKARA (AP) — Talks on a Cyprus settlement are continuing, but no date has been fixed for a proposed four-party conference, a Turkish official said Wednesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur was commenting on reports from Athens that the conference had been set for Oct. 3. The island has been divided since Turkish troops seized its northern third in 1974 to prevent its union with Greece after a right-wing coup. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state was set up in 1983. It is recognised only by Turkey. After visiting Greece and Turkey in July, U.S. President George Bush announced the two countries and the Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders had agreed to meet in the United States. Mr. Sungur said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent messages last week to Turkish Premier Mesut Yilmaz and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş urging support for the negotiating efforts of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Oscar Camillion and Gusev Fetsel, special representatives of the secretary-general, are engaged in a third round of negotiations with Greek and Turkish Cypriot officials in Nicosia to narrow their differences. Mr. Yilmaz and Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis were also meeting in Paris Wednesday to discuss the Cyprus issue.

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# King: Breakthrough for peace at hand

## Devastating consequences if Arab hopes dashed, Jordan tells Europe

STRASBOURG (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the world was on the verge of a breakthrough of a settlement of the Palestinian problem, but warned of devastating consequences if the hopes were dashed.

King Hussein said an international peace conference on the Middle East due next month would have the chance to address the root cause of regional instability at a time when great and rapid changes were taking place elsewhere in the world.

But he added: "There are on either side forces of extremism and darkness that will grow in strength if there is no progress... failure would be devastating."

In a speech to the European Parliament, the King said "a violent storm of unpredictable change" would sweep the Arab World if Arabs were left to go on suffering material deprivation as

a result of the Gulf war.

Winds of change that had brought down forces of dictatorship and one-party rule elsewhere in the world would also hit the Arab World as "hatred, despair and pessimism" grew among its peoples, he said.

King Hussein, calling new Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories "a threat to peace," also welcomed the Bush administration's efforts to delay U.S. financial aid to Israel.

"It gives the impression the United States is serious about peace in the Middle East and is determined to be an evenhanded peace broker," King Hussein said at a news conference following the speech.

President George Bush has asked Congress to delay for four months consideration of \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees that must help Israel absorb new Soviet immigrants by building

bombes in the occupied territories.

The housing loan guarantees would let Israel borrow the money from commercial banks with a cost to the U.S. treasury of a percentage of the amount.

Israel has recently settled many immigrants in the occupied territories, whose future status would be at the heart of a peace conference.

See page 4 for full text of King Hussein's address to the European Parliament

"We are very worried and very, very concerned with what we see as obstacles to peace being created physically on the ground," King Hussein said. Yet he said he was "encouraged" by recent efforts to convene a peace conference.

"I sincerely believe we are on the verge of perhaps a sizeable breakthrough for the first time in many years," he told reporters

after addressing the European Parliament.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is to travel to the Middle East next week to try to iron out remaining obstacles to a peace conference, including the vexed question of who will represent the Palestinians.

The conference is tentatively scheduled to open next month. King Hussein commended the U.S. administration for "genuine and serious" efforts to arrange the conference.

The administration has resisted intense pressure from Israel to seek immediate congressional approval of the loan.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday it was "inconceivable" the United States would not offer immediate help and vowed to press on with settlements in the occupied territories.

In his wide-ranging speech to the European Parliament, King

Hussein said Jordan was eager to contribute its "full share" to peace talks.

He called attention to the tide of refugees that has swept Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis. He said that 82 per cent of the 230,000 expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and the Gulf have not found work in Jordan.

"We have had to absorb the impact of ever growing humanitarian responsibilities while struggling to achieve for all our people stability, progress and prosperity with what little we received irregularly in material assistance," he said.

King Hussein said Jordan's achievement in setting high standards of development for its people could be threatened unless there was action to arrest economic decline caused by successive regional crises.

Jordan had had to bear the burden during every phase of

Palestinian suffering, and tens of thousands of Iraqis were also in the country seeking asylum for the "every growing human tragedy," afflicting the Iraqi people.

As an example of Jordan's economic problems, King Hussein said the country's Airbus fleet might be withdrawn shortly because of its current inability to pay arrears on their purchase price.

The loss of this fleet and accompanying financial losses would deal a crippling blow to Royal Jordanian Airlines, he said. Airbus is built by a four-nation community consortium.

King Hussein was due to meet privately later Wednesday European Commission President Jacques Delors and Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, but he did not say whether he would be seeking any specific forms of community aid.

## France seeks four-power meeting

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday that the four countries with nuclear weapons in Europe should meet soon to work out new security arrangements needed because of instability in the Soviet Union. The French president also predicted that Slovenia, and probably Croatia as well, would become independent of Yugoslavia. Mr. Mitterrand, in a nationally televised news conference, said it was essential that U.S., Soviet, French and British leaders meet soon "to ensure the security of the continent." At the moment, the uncertainty is coming from Moscow. It's up to Moscow to say who's in authority, where the nuclear weapons are now and where they will go. "Aside from several briefings during the Gulf war, it was Mr. Mitterrand's first full-scale news conference since May 1989 and only the sixth since he took office in 1981. It followed a barrage of criticism from conservatives, who accused him of a weak initial response to the attempted Soviet coup and said his Socialist Party was out of step with contemporary Europe. A poll by L'Express magazine last week reported that 61 per cent of 1,000 adults surveyed described Mr. Mitterrand as "worn out."



## Bonn ready to use its clout to help Jordan

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Germany is prepared to use its political influence to counter the financial and economic problems facing Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis and enable the Kingdom to contribute positively to Middle East peace process, a German government minister said Wednesday.

"We would be prepared to use foreign political influence to counter financial and economic problems facing Jordan," said Carl Dieter Spranger, Germany's minister for economic cooperation.

"We will try to assert our influence on the United States, the Gulf states and Israel to try to reach a peaceful economic social stability that has so far eluded us," Mr. Spranger told the Jordan Times.

The minister, who held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials over the past two days, expressed hope that the Middle East peace conference scheduled to take place in October would succeed.

"Germany will do all that it can to promote this (the peace process)," he said.

One of the main themes for Mr. Spranger's talks in Amman

was Jordanian-German cooperation and Bonn's financial support for the Kingdom — an issue the minister emphasised in remarks upon his arrival in Amman Tuesday.

Germany was the first country to respond to an appeal made by His Majesty King Hussein last month for assistance to help the Kingdom cope with the massive influx of expatriates returning from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

In response to the call, Bonn offered \$2.85 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) to mobilise programmes to help the returnees. The contribution came in addition to Germany's regular assistance to UNRWA.

Jordan, largest recipient of German aid in per capita terms in the region, also received millions of dollars from Bonn in aid to help the Kingdom offset the impact of the Gulf crisis, which damaged every aspect of the Kingdom's economy.

Crown Prince Hassan, who met with Mr. Spranger Tuesday, expressed Jordan's appreciation for Germany's support in addressing the needs of the returnees. The Crown Prince drew a comparison between Jordan's needs to absorb

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## Jordan, PLO end 2 days of talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials Wednesday ended two days of talks on coordinating their positions at the U.S.-proposed Middle East peace conference scheduled for next month.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, quoted by the AP, said Wednesday's session of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee "discussed Middle East developments and the ongoing peace efforts." But he did not elaborate.

The PLO official said the committee was chaired by Nabil Shaath, a political aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and briefed the Jordanian government on Palestinian meetings in London with U.S. and European officials.

He said prominent Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories and Europe held meetings in London last week with the officials to discuss the form of Palestinian participation in the peace process. He gave no details.

The joint committee, formed last month by His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, consists of almost a dozen officials from both sides.

The committee is primarily involved in coordinating positions between Palestinians and Jordanians on U.S. efforts to convene the peace conference.

The committee was also entrusted with promoting Palestinian participation at the conference.

The PLO has in the past insisted that it should have its own delegation.

But the United States favours a joint delegation of Jordanian officials and non-PLO Palestinian representatives.

King Hussein has said he was willing to form a delegation of Palestinian and Jordanian officials, providing the PLO accepted that formula.

King Hussein affirmed that Jordanians will not speak on behalf of Palestinians and stressed that Palestinians will have to select their representatives to the peace parity.

Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO's information department, meanwhile denied persistent reports that the organisation would transfer its headquarters from Tunis to Amman.

The question has not been raised with Jordan or with any other Arab party," Mr. Arafat said, an Executive Committee member, was quoted as saying in an interview in the Tunisian weekly Al Nahar.

Jordan and the PLO are trying to reach an understanding on the peace conference depending on whether "our conditions are fulfilled," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying in Al Nahar.

A Palestinian leader said on Wednesday the PLO should be given a seat in the proposed peace conference, despite Israeli objections.

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## Bush says no specific loan guarantee pledge to Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush denied Wednesday that the United States had promised Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help the Jewish state resettle Soviet emigres.

"In principle, this concept of helping, we want to do it. But I'm not committed to any numbers and never have been," said Mr. Bush, who complained of misleading statements in Israel that "they wanted what we'd committed to."

"If they're going to deal on this question, we ought to be dealing from the facts. And that one was not a fact," he said.

Mr. Bush was responding to a reporter's question about whether he was committed to back the \$10 billion line of credit sought by Israel if Congress agreed to a delay on the request.

His testy comment was apparently prompted by an Israeli official's statement Tuesday that Israel would reject compromises on the loan guarantee issue.

"What Israel wants is to have those loan guarantees, as was promised by the U.S.," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters in occupied Jerusalem.

The official spoke out after Mr. Bush, in a bid to smooth over the U.S.-Israeli dispute, promised action on the guarantees at the end of the 120-day deferment he was proposed.

Mr. Bush, in a letter on Tuesday to Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, also promised to compensate Israel for any additional costs caused by the delay he is seeking.

Israel needs the guarantees to borrow the \$10 billion at low interest rates to help absorb an estimated one million Soviet immigrants over the next five years.

Israeli officials say they are worried that if approval of the guarantees is postponed, Washington will use the issue and future American aid as leverage to extract compromises from Israel at the proposed Middle East peace in October.

Israel has agreed conditionally to attend the conference but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said repeatedly that Israel will not give up the occupied territories.

"A simple delay here in my view and in the view of all of us in the administration is the best way to set the proper tone for these talks to start," Mr. Bush said. "I'm going to fight for it, and I think the American people will back me... if we take the case to the American people."

Mr. Bush said he was "calling the shots on this question the way I think is best," and not approaching it "in a spirit of confrontation."

"We've taken the lead around the world in facilitating... Soviet Jews coming to Israel and Ethiopian Jews as well," he said.

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George Bush

When asked if he was concerned that Israel might pull out of the prospective peace talks if the dispute continues, the U.S. leader replied: "No, I think they're committed."

Mr. Bush also told Congress Tuesday that if it did not defer the plan to provide loan guarantees to Israel "the result could well be the loss of the peace process."

In his letter to Mr. Dole, Mr. Bush said approval now of the loan guarantees would divert attention from the U.S. efforts to get Arab-Israeli peace talks started.

Mr. Dole released Mr. Bush's letter after the president and his top advisers discussed with key senators commitments the administration would make if the

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## Egypt decides to freeze visa rule for Jordanians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt has decided to freeze its decision to impose visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt and has stressed the importance of conducting consultations among the Arab countries neighbouring Israel prior to the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October.

The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur following a meeting in Cairo Wednesday with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

The Egyptian government, upon directives from the president, has decided to freeze its decision of imposing visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt, said the minister in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The Egyptian decision "is

positive" and "reflects the brotherly atmosphere which characterised the meetings with the president and the foreign minister," said Dr. Ensur.

The minister said that he reviewed with the president Egyptian-Jordanian relations. "Stressing the importance of removing all that mar bilateral ties and underlining the need for both countries to work together for the best interests of the Egyptian and Jordanian peoples."

The two sides discussed the peace process and the coordination and cooperation that should materialise among Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to achieve the aspired goals, the foreign minister added.

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## Arafat reaffirms right to seek U.S. guarantees

From Tareq Masarweh in Tunis

PALESTINE PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat has reaffirmed the Palestinian's right to demand American guarantees in advance of the proposed peace conference in October and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plans to submit such requests for guarantees to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The PLO seeks full coordination among the Arab states neighbouring Israel, Mr. Arafat said adding that he had discussed this question with His Majesty King Hussein in Amman and with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Libya.

Asked on whether the Palestine National Council (PNC) would give support to the PLO leadership, Mr. Arafat said he

would like to get the unanimous approval of the PNC about the next step and "certainly we will try to get unanimous approval of the political programme."

Mr. Arafat reiterated that the PLO was agreeable to the idea of a confederal state with Jordan "because the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is unique and coordination between the two sides was endorsed by the PNC as far back as 1983."

"It is useless for the Arabs to move towards the peace conference individually and there must be full coordination among the Arab parties," he said. Of course, the PLO has certain positions and principled stands that it can never abandon under any circumstances."

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## Panel decries detainee treatment; government denies allegations

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — A Jordanian parliamentary committee has called for judicial investigation into charges that the secret service tortured detainees, including suspected members of an underground Muslim fundamentalist group.

The government, which watchdog activists say has one of the best human rights records in the region, denies the unprecedented public allegations by parliament's Standing Committee on Public Freedoms.

The committee is dominated by members of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement and includes representatives from the left and right. Government-fundamentalist tensions have risen since the Brotherhood, the biggest single group in parliament, boycotted a new cabinet in June, objecting to moves towards peace talks with Israel.

The committee said there were persistent reports of torture by the General Intelligence Department (GID).

It said reported abuses included beating detainees on the soles of their feet and tying them to walls.

Suspects were also denied access to lawyers and relatives and held without charge, sometimes for months, the committee said.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty Interna-

tional says Jordan has in general increased public freedoms and widened democracy but torture is still reported.

Torture charges surfaced in the committee after the detention in July of 140 members of "Fatah Mohammad's Army" which the government accuses of car bombing in which a security officer and a priest's daughter were crippled.

Eighteen members of the underground group are due to stand trial soon. The government recently released 81 without charge and some of them related their experiences to MPs.

"In view of the persistent accounts by detainees over the years about organised torture, a panel should be set up to call in all those who were held by the GID in the past 10 years to listen to their testimonies," said the report released to local media after parliament's final summer session.

"The government has no knowledge of such torture being inflicted," Interior Minister Jawdat Shoub told Reuters.

He said Jordan was cooperating with the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross, which routinely visits prisons and can see GID detainees every two weeks.

"Forming these (investigative) panels would be illegal. Laws in force have defined the legal and administrative parties that are

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## Rights group says Kuwaiti regime responsible for abuse

WASHINGTON (R) — The government of Kuwait should be held responsible for the murder, torture, detention and deportation of thousands of Palestinians and non-Kuwaitis in the six months since Iraqi forces withdrew, a human rights group said Wednesday.

The group, Middle East Watch, said the Emir of Kuwait and the crown prince have virtually invited widespread violence to periodic calls to rid the country of Iraqi "collaborators."

"The pretext for these abuses is a government-inspired quest to root out those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupiers and to restructure Kuwaiti society in a fashion that is deemed more reliable politically," the report said.

"Murder, torture, arbitrary detention and deportation have been the tools of this campaign of vengeance," the report said.

Although the Kuwaiti government has attempted to put blame for the violence on forces outside its control, most of the killings were by security forces and irregular armed forces allied with them, the group reported.

It said it had collected evidence that Kuwaiti forces were responsible for scores of deaths, including 54 unidentified bodies in a mass grave.

"The highest levels of Kuwaiti government are complicit in these killings in that they have yet to arrest or prosecute any of those

responsible," the report said.

At least 3,000 people were being held in detention under abhorrent conditions with about one-third held pending deportation. Most of the rest have no charges filed against them. About 300 are being held incommunicado.

More than 1,500 have been expelled, some sent over the border to Iraq where they faced persecution. The report said a typical case was that of a Palestinian who had lived in Kuwait for 32 of his 35 years and worked as an oil-maintenance man but was accused of collaboration.

The Kuwaiti government said Wednesday its prisons were open to international investigators.

"Deportations have not stopped... torture continues. Anybody non-Kuwaiti who is arrested even for non-political reasons is being tortured," said Imad Al Seif, a defence lawyer and a prominent Kuwaiti human rights activist.

The government asserted there was no torture in Kuwait.

"I assert that there is no torture going on. Those people who are leaving are going out of their own will and after they take all their dues and rights," Information Minister Badr Al Jassim Al Yacoub said.

"Our doors are open to any organisation that wants to come and verify that these allegations are not true... this is part of a campaign against Kuwait," he

told Reuters.

Kuwaiti human rights activists spoke of daily deportation of Palestinians and other non-Kuwaitis.

Mr. Seif said torture victims were Palestinians and other Arabs. He said the number of political arrests had recently decreased, but deportations continued on daily basis.

Kuwait's Palestinian community, which numbered 350,000 before Iraq's invasion, has plummeted to less than 90,000 people.

The emirate, angered by Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for Iraq, laid off thousands of Palestinians and barred their children from government schools. The move caused an exodus to Jordan.

The Kuwaiti activists said at least 3,000 people were being held in detention. More than 1,000 were awaiting deportation without going on trial.

"The authorities told us that about 300 people are ready to stand trial," Mr. Seif said.

Kuwait has set up an appeals court to ensure that people suspected of collaborating with Iraq enjoy greater legal protection when trials resume in September.

The Kuwaiti legal system was widely criticised by Western governments and human rights organisations earlier this year when suspected collaborators were tried in martial law courts without the right of appeal.

## Kurdish rebels step up attacks in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — While security forces searched for five Westerners abducted in eastern Turkey last month, Kurdish separatists have stepped up their attacks, killing seven soldiers in one raid, officials said Wednesday.

The attack Tuesday was believed carried out by guerrillas who infiltrated from Iran, the officials said. Three soldiers were wounded and three guerrillas killed during the fighting at an army post near the Iranian border.

In another rebel attack near Kirtan in Siirt province, five soldiers were reportedly injured.

The attacks were believed to have been mounted by the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), fighting since 1984 for an independent Kurdistan in south-eastern Turkey.

The killing of 10 soldiers in a similar raid on an outpost near the Iraqi border had triggered a massive strike at PKK hideouts across the border last month.

About 3,000 troops involved in military operations in northern Iraq have since been withdrawn, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur Wednesday did not rule out possible "effective measures" in the future.

Asked about the possibility of a similar incursion into Iran where the PKK is suspected of having bases, Mr. Sungur said it had not been discussed with the Iranian officials so far. Iran and Syria had opposed Turkish strikes in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile about 4,000 troops and police commands kept searching for three Americans, a Briton and an Australian abducted at a guerrilla roadblock in Bingol province on Aug. 30.

The five were identified as Americans Ronald Wyatt, Marvin Wilson, Richard Rives, Briton Gareth Thomas and Australian Allen Roberts. At least three of them had been searching for Noah's Ark in eastern Turkey where the Bible says it came to rest.

A message believed sent by the PKK's "European department" raised hopes for their release Monday, but later the group retracted the promise.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department urged the "immediate and unconditional release" of the abducted Westerners.

## U.N. says Iran mission stalled over helicopter ban

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of a U.N. team sent to inspect Iraq's ballistic weapons systems said on Wednesday the entire mission was held up by a dispute over the helicopters.

Iraq has refused the 17-member team, which arrived in Baghdad a week ago, permission to use two of three German helicopters on loan to the United Nations for trips around the country.

Baghdad said it was able to supply air transport. The United States has warned Iraq that its ban was a direct breach of an Aug. 15 Security Council resolution.

Asked what effect the ban was having, team leader Tom Brock told Reuters: "We came in here to inspect the western zone and we had to do that with the use of United Nations-provided helicopters. The Iraqi authorities did not approve."

"That decision has put the mission on hold and delayed it. Without the transportation that I use I cannot continue to execute the mission. I'm waiting..."

Iraq fired missiles at Israel from western sites during the Gulf war in January and February.

On Monday, Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's dangerous weapons, said one team found four Scud missile transporters welded back together after being scrapped under U.N. supervision at a site near Baghdad.

Asked why the team needed helicopters, Mr. Brock replied: "The western zone is quite remote from Baghdad and as such the support systems the team needs are quite far-scattered. The use of helicopters would expedite our movement between these far-distant points."

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf said on Tuesday the use of foreign helicopters posed a threat to national security and said Iraq did not trust statements that they would be used solely to carry out the tasks of the inspection teams.

Under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq must destroy all its weapons of mass destruction. A series of U.N. teams investigating its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as ballistic missile capability have visited the country.

The three helicopters loaned by Germany are stationed in neighbouring Turkey.

Asked why the team did not use transport offered by Iraq, Mr. Brock said: "That's not my decision and that's being discussed right now between the United Nations and the Iraqi authorities."

He added that using helicopters allowed the team to inspect the sites from the air before touching down as well as moving them rapidly from one site to another.

Iran starts census, says population near 60 million

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, starting a national census Wednesday, said its population was approaching 60 million and more extensive birth control programmes were needed to curb it.

Tehran Radio quoted Abolqasem Jamshidi, head of Iran's statistics centre, as saying projections based on sample studies put the population at 59.5 million — up from 49.8 million found in the last census in 1986.

"The five-year plan (to March 1994) envisages a drop in the (annual) population growth rate from 3.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent," Mr. Jamshidi said.

"But statistical studies show that this is impossible to achieve and more fundamental decisions should be taken."

The population boom is one of the biggest strains on Iran's efforts to reverse more than a

decade of economic decline since the 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Mr. Jamshidi said Tehran province, comprising the capital and several outlying cities, was home to 13 million people.

His estimate means that Iran's population has grown an average 3.6 per cent in each of the past five years — higher than any growth rate mentioned by Iranian officials recently.

Officials said last month some 15,000 census workers would offer birth control devices to poor families across the country during the 25-day headcount.

Tehran Radio said supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was among the first to fill out census forms.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who has six children, urged people to answer census questions.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq begins returning Kuwait library tomes

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq Tuesday began returning some 120,000 manuscripts and books that it took from Kuwait's national library during the Gulf war, a U.N. official announced. The transfer of the volumes is taking place at the town of Arar, on the Saudi side of the Saudi Arabian-Iraqi border, and will continue under U.N. supervision for about two weeks, said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard. Iraq will also begin turning over property taken from the Kuwaiti News Agency, a transfer that will also be finished in two weeks, he said. Under the terms of the April 3 ceasefire resolution of the Security Council, the goods are being returned, with U.N. officials assisting Kuwait and Iraq in making arrangements. On Sept. 14, Mr. Eckhard said, Iraq will begin returning the antiquities it took from the Kuwait national museum, which had acquired a fabulous collection of Islamic art by making purchases worldwide with petrodollars. The transfer of the antiquities will take about three weeks. From Aug. 5-15, Iraq returned 3,216 gold bars. Each bar weighed 12.5 kilograms, and the whole amount was worth \$600-\$700 million. Last week, Baghdad completed the return of Kuwaiti bank notes and coins. Kuwaiti aircraft engines and spare parts taken by Iraq are still at Saddam International Airport in Baghdad, but will be returned when the library and museum pieces have been processed. Missing planes have already been returned. Richard Foran, a U.N. under-secretary-general, has been supervising the transfers and helping the Iraqis and Kuwaitis make arrangements.

### Firebombs tossed at cars, bank in Turkey

KOCAELI, Turkey (AP) — Unknown assailants Tuesday tossed firebombs into two official vehicles and one local bank, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. No one was hurt in any of the incidents. It said the attacks occurred about 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) in the city centre when the firebombs were hurled at an official van and a car, parked respectively in front of the general post office and a state insurance organisation. Both vehicles were completely burned. Around the same time, in the province's Korfaz district, a firebomb was hurled at a local bank, causing some damage. The police said a young girl had been caught after hurling the bomb against the bank, and they were searching for another accomplice, her identity was not disclosed. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the car blasts.

### Halfway point reached in fixing oil fires

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The halfway point was reached Tuesday in repairing Kuwait's devastated oil fields when a seven-man Canadian crew capped the 375th oil well, an oil company spokesman said. A news release from Kuwait Oil Company spokesman Michael Kidder said a firefighting team from Safety Boss, a Canadian firm, flooded the blazing Burgan field wellhead — officially designated as BG41 — with torrents of water. Crews then lowered a killing spool, or valve mechanism, onto the wellhead and bolted it in place, and step by step, the oil was cut off and the pipe sealed. Kuwait oil marshalled nearly 9,000 workers from 32 countries to repair its oil fields. Of the emirate's 935 wells, 749 were damaged, including more than 650 set ablaze or left gushing oil in the final weeks of the Gulf war.

### John McCarthy meets hostage's wife

LONDON (AP) — Freed British hostage John McCarthy met briefly Tuesday with the wife of Jackie Mann, a 72-year-old Briton still missing in Lebanon. Mr. McCarthy, 34, flew to Heathrow airport from France, where he has been resting after his release Aug. 8. After a 90-minute meeting with Sunnie Mann in the airport VIP lounge, he flew back to France. Mrs. Mann said, "he gave me a great deal of encouragement. He is a wonderful person and I was very, very happy to meet him." Mr. McCarthy said he was unable to give Mrs. Mann any specific news about her husband, who disappeared in west Beirut May 12, 1987. A previously unknown group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle, claimed responsibility. "I know nothing. I am afraid," Mr. McCarthy said. "I haven't seen Jackie. But for me, conditions were better in the last couple of years and I am sure it is the same for him." Mr. McCarthy was held by Islamic Jihad.

### Cypriot quits of race for U.N. presidency

NICOSIA (R) — The foreign minister of Cyprus, George Iacovou, said Tuesday he had withdrawn as a candidate for the presidency of the 46th U.N. General Assembly session. Mr. Iacovou's decision left three men in the race for the prestige filled post — Saudi Arabia's U.N. envoy, Samir Shihabi, Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Sir Michael Somare and Yemen's U.N. representative, Abdullah Al Ashtal. The presidency of the 159-nation assembly rotates annually among the United Nations' five major regional groups and this year is the turn of the Asian group. Usually a single candidate is nominated, making his election a foregone conclusion. When there are two or more candidates and none is willing to step down, the election becomes a real contest. The 46th annual General Assembly opens on Sept. 17. "After the failure of the formal conciliation procedure and other efforts from distinguished colleagues to reach a consensus within the group, around my candidature, I have decided to withdraw it," Mr. Iacovou said in a statement which was sent to the president of the Asian group of the Non-Aligned Movement.

### Kuwait offers more jobs for Bangladeshis

DHAKA (R) — Kuwait offered 20,000 more jobs for Bangladeshis when the two countries began talks on Wednesday on the re-employment of 56,000 Bangladeshis who fled the Iraqi invasion of the Gulf emirate, officials said. Kuwait, which has already given back jobs to 20,000 Bangladeshis, mostly men, offered employment for 20,000 women in hospitals, garment factories and schools, they said. Kuwait told Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during a visit there in June that Bangladesh workers would be taken back in phases. It had declared all employment contracts void before the Gulf war that ended the seven-month Iraqi occupation. Bangladesh earned \$760 million in the 1989/90 fiscal year from remittances from more than half a million expatriate workers, including 56,000 in Kuwait.

## Perez de Cuellar urges review of U.N. enforcement measures

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a review of the use of enforcement measures under the U.N. Charter and indicated some reservations about the way they were applied in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In a wide-ranging annual report on the work of the United Nations, he said the Security Council acted swiftly and systematically and force was used only when all warnings to Baghdad went unheeded.

But he added that enforcement action was not carried out exactly in the form foreseen under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which provides for measures by the United Nations itself. Instead, the Security Council authorised the use of force on a national and coalition basis.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is now in the final months of his second five-year term of office, continued: "In the circumstances and given the costs imposed and capabilities demanded by modern warfare, the arrangement seemed unavoidable."

But he said the Gulf experience "suggests the need for a collective reflection on questions relating to the future use of the powers vested in the Security Council under Chapter VII," including an assessment of the mechanisms required for the council to satisfy itself that the rule of proportionality in the employment of armed force is observed and the rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts followed.

Referring particularly to the use of economic sanctions and their effects not only on an offending state but its economic partners, he said careful thought should be given to ensuring that the application of enforcement measures "is not perceived to be over-extended."

Elsewhere in his report Mr. Perez de Cuellar said protection of human rights "has now become one of the keystones in the arch of peace" and countries could no longer carry out massive violations behind the barrier of national sovereignty.

"I am also convinced that it



Javier Perez de Cuellar

now involves more a concerted exertion of international influence and pressure through timely appeal, admonition, remonstrance or condemnation and, in the last resort, an appropriate United Nations presence, than what was regarded as permissible under traditional international law."

He said: "It is now increasingly felt that the principle of non-interference with the essential domestic jurisdiction of states cannot be regarded as a protective barrier behind which human rights could be massively or systematically violated with impunity."

The case for not impinging on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states was, by itself, indubitably strong.

"But it would only be weakened if it were to carry the implication that sovereignty, even in this day and age, includes the right of mass slaughter or of launching systematic campaigns of decimation or forced exodus of civilian populations in the name of controlling civil strife or insurrection," the secretary-general added.

Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, is a strong contender to succeed Mr. Perez de Cuellar as U.N. secretary-general. Another name mentioned repeatedly is that of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, but it is not known whether the philanthropist would actually enter the race.

## U.N. brokers relief accord in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations said on Tuesday it had brokered an agreement between Sudan's government and rebels which would open up food relief corridors to reach millions of famine victims in the war-torn south.

Truck convoys and river barges on Nile tributaries would start moving soon, U.N. Under-Secretary General James Jonah told reporters before leaving Nairobi after talks with Khartoum's government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"We have worked out an interim agreement between the government and the SPLA to open up land and water corridors," he said.

Up to 57 million would be saved by the agreement, which would replace the costly airlifts that are currently the only means to reach some war zones in the eight-year conflict.

Many of the estimated eight million people facing starvation in Sudan this year come from the south — where the main cause of hunger is the ravages of war rather than drought.

Mr. Jonah said relief airlifts would cease as soon as land and river routes were opened, but he warned some avenues would remain closed due to military activity.

Most of the south — a vast region of swamp and forest — is in rebel hands, but key towns are still held by the government. Khartoum-based relief officials are gearing up for major offensives during the current rainy season in the lead-up to Organisation of African Unity (OAU) brokered peace talks planned to start within the next few weeks.

The government's air force has been overhauled for new bombing raids and SPLA fighters are massing outside besieged towns, the officials said.

## Pollard says U.S. broke plea bargain

WASHINGTON (R) — Lawyers for confessed spy Jonathan Pollard tried to convince an appeals court Tuesday that their client should be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea on grounds the U.S. government broke its side of a plea agreement.

Theodore Olson, arguing on behalf of the former U.S. spy intelligence analyst who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, also said Mr. Pollard's guilty plea was coerced because it was improperly linked to a similar plea by his wife.

But assistant U.S. attorney John Fisher denied that the government violated the terms of Mr. Pollard's 1986 plea-bargain agreement.

He said Mr. Pollard waited years before challenging the government's conduct at sentencing, that Mr. Pollard struck the best deal possible and that Mr. Pollard has never contested his guilt.

After more than 90 minutes of arguments, the three-judge panel of the U.S. court of appeals took the case under advisement, with a decision expected in several months.

Judges Ruth Ginsburg, Laurence Silberman and Stephen Wil-

liams gave no firm indication of how they would rule.

Mr. Pollard, a 37-year-old American Jew in solitary confinement at a maximum security prison in Marion, Illinois, was not at the hearing. But his parents and his sister, who have been leading the Israeli-backed campaign to reduce his sentence, attended.

Mr. Pollard and his wife, Anne, were arrested outside the Israeli embassy on Nov. 21, 1985, after trying to elude pursuing agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

He confessed to passing stacks of top-secret documents to Israel for 18 months in return for \$45,000 in cash. He said he acted because important intelligence was being withheld from Israel.

Mr. Olson said the government violated the terms of the plea deal by casting doubt on the value of Mr. Pollard's cooperation by going beyond the facts and circumstances of the case in portraying Mr. Pollard as a greedy traitor and by effectively seeking a life sentence.

He said Mr. Pollard agreed to the plea bargain in the hope of receiving lenient treatment for himself and his wife, who was convicted as an accomplice and who suffered from a rare diges-

tive disorder.

The government's acts were calculated to get the most severe sentence possible," Mr. Olson said, claiming that Mr. Pollard's constitutional rights had been violated.

But Mr. Fisher replied that Mr. Pollard knew what he was entering into.

"No guilty plea is ever truly voluntary... it is a choice between unpleasant alternatives," Mr. Fisher said. "Mr. Pollard didn't have the world's best bargaining power."

Mr. Fisher said the government lived up to its promise to recommend a "substantial" unspecified period of incarceration and that Mr. Pollard knew the judge could impose a life sentence anyway.

He also questioned why Mr. Pollard had waited so long in making the claims. "Either Mr. Pollard has invented this argument years after the fact or he purposefully misled the judge at sentencing (on whether the guilty plea was voluntary)."

Mr. Pollard's wife was released from prison last year after about 40 months in jail. They have divorced and she has moved to Israel. Mr. Pollard will not be eligible for parole until 1997.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Snorky  
18:30 ..... Les Chevaliers de Clef  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Documentary  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... The Family Man  
21:00 ..... Outlaws  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Movie of the week: "Water to Bridge"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:54 ..... Fajr  
06:12 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:33 ..... Dhuhur  
16:04 ..... Asr  
18:52 ..... Maghrib  
20:10 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel: 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 827081, 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 19 / 29  
Aqaba ..... 23 / 36  
Dahlat ..... 17 / 33  
Jordan Valley ..... 22 / 35  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rabih ..... 736072  
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali ..... 740740  
Dr. Ahmad Al Naxour ..... 633934  
Dr. Salama Al Debsi ..... 770751  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nafaroun pharmacy ..... 626672  
Al Sahan pharmacy ..... 636720  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660

DRIBD:  
Dr. Ali Al Omari ..... (—)  
Al Shams pharmacy ..... (985238)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Abdul Karim Khastabeh ..... (—)  
Khalid pharmacy ..... 985417

man 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:  
Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 812222  
Blood Bank ..... 771221  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 638800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Call ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 621101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 985417

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 661714  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 643845  
Al-Mustashfi Hospital ..... 667277  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 661277  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 661646  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 773112  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 62240950  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Gov. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)903060  
Jou Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)909090

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5220-5, where it should always be verified.

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:15 ..... London (RJ)  
13:20 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
15:00 ..... New York (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Bahrain (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Doha (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

### ARRIV

## Officials express gratitude for German efforts to modernise the Kingdom's economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian officials Wednesday voiced their appreciation and gratitude to Germany for its continued financial, economic, and technical aid to the Kingdom and expressed hope that Germany will now turn its attention towards helping the country honour its financial obligations and foreign debts.

German assistance to Jordan over the past three decades was instrumental in achieving development in almost all fields and in implementing socio-economic projects, said Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan is especially appreciative of Bonn for its immediate support and financial aid in the wake of the Gulf crisis to cope with additional burdens on the Kingdom resulting from the war in maintaining capital, cultural, commercial and economic projects in Jordan, said the minister following his talks with the visiting German Minister for Economic Cooperation Carl Dieter Spranger.

After hearing Dr. Fariz's appeal to Germany and the rest of the world community for aid, Mr. Spranger said that his government was ready to give serious consideration to Jordanian requests. Mr. Spranger said that Germany would increase the volume of economic aid to Jordan.

Referring to German-Jordanian talks in June, Dr. Fariz said that the two sides signed minutes providing for technical

and financial cooperation. This, he said, included the allocation of 64 million Deutsche marks to expand and work of the Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant, the water sector in Jordan, irrigation projects in the northern Jordan Valley region and in eastern Jordan.

It also covered technical cooperation like the expansion of laboratories conducting tests on plants, insecticides, training Jordanian technicians in hospitals on the production of veterinary vaccines, increasing the production of seeds for farming and expanding agricultural projects being implemented at the Zarqa Basin region.

In November, the two sides will discuss German aid to Jordan to help it protect the rocks in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, Dr. Fariz said.

The consequences of the Gulf crisis were too harsh for Jordan's economy and placed enormous pressure on the Jordanian people, adding to their sufferings, the minister said.

He added that with the return to Jordan of 300,000 expatriates, the situation has become very difficult as the country struggles to provide health, educational, transport, water and social services to the growing population. The minister said that Jordan needs at least \$3.7 billion to provide the additional services plus the cost of sustaining such services, estimated to be at least \$1 billion more.

## U.N. agency to help farmers increase fruit production

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Wednesday concluded an agreement on implementing a project designed to improve the production of fruit-tree saplings.

According to the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem and FAO representative Zohair Abdullah, the project is to produce fruit trees to meet the needs of the local market and end Jordan's reliance on imports.

Work on the \$183,000 project will begin in November and it will take at least one year to complete, according to the agreement. It said that FAO will provide expertise and equipment as well as materials needed for irrigation, the manufacture of raters, chemical products, spraying equipment and will offer raining courses to Jordanians involved in the project.

For its part, Minister of Agriculture will appoint a director for the national project, ensure all the requirements and facilities to guarantee the project's success. This means providing technicians, workers, offices and plots of land on which the saplings will be grown in nurseries.

Dr. Qasem Wednesday decided to create a data bank to provide data and guidance needed by the farmers to improve their output. The data bank, to be set up at the ministry, will help improve food production in the country, the minister said.

The decision was announced at the minister's meeting with owners of nurseries which produce fruit tree saplings whom he asked to form a committee and prepare a working paper that outlines their role in contributing to the effort of increasing fruit tree saplings in Jordan.

Owners of the nurseries called on the Ministry of Agriculture to increase its production of olive and grape saplings so that they can sell them to the public.

especially that we did not have any gasoline needed for our transportation."

Dr. Naimi expressed hope that the federation would continue its work in benefiting the Arab World's scientific research capabilities.

Established in August 1976, the federation is concerned with enhancing cooperation and coordination among various councils, academics and organisations dealing with scientific research in Arab countries. The federation also gives due attention to research programmes in various fields, particularly those related to socio-economic development schemes in the Arab World.

About 15 Arab countries are members of the federation. These countries include Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Egypt and Yemen.

In a speech delivered at a gathering of Jordanian and Iraqi scientists, Dr. Naimi highlighted some of the federation's achievements which included the establishment of a special unit for documentation and information related to invention patents and the creation of a data bank aimed at serving Arab researchers and scientists.

Dr. Naimi also spoke of the difficult times the federation experienced during the days of the war and the efforts he and a number of his colleagues made to keep the work of the federation alive.

"We used to open the office twice a week during the war," Dr. Naimi said. "It was hard



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses representatives of former army servicemen in Irbid Wednesday. The Crown Prince thanked the group for their sacrifices for Jordan (Petra photo).

## Crown Prince thanks former army servicemen for their devotion on behalf of Jordan

IRBID (Petra) — Jordan is facing serious challenges and the Jordanian people are called on to show solidarity with each other and to intensify their efforts to overcome these difficulties, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday.

Addressing representatives of former army servicemen and retired officers from the Irbid and Mafrqa governorates who number about 70,000, the Prince said Jordanians take pride in and have appreciation of the army officers who were pioneers in offering services to the Kingdom.

There is need for consolidating contacts between the military establishment and the former servicemen but there is also difficulty in conducting a comprehensive survey about the conditions of former military personnel, he said.

He suggested that the former servicemen should themselves conduct the survey and present a working paper outlining their requests and their conditions.

The Crown Prince also said

The Crown Prince was replying to a request put forth by one of the retired army officers, Subhi Al Roussan, who demanded that retired officers be offered soft loans to start income-generating projects and loans to set up homes.

The government wishes practical proposals which can help it deal with requests, the Crown Prince said. The Regent added that retired officers experience would be welcome in various economic projects.

Referring to the situation in Jordan, the Crown Prince said that with the arrival of 230,000 workers from the Gulf countries the unemployment problem in the Kingdom is being aggravated. The vast experience of this workforce will be utilised and the government is approaching the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA) to provide help in this respect, the Regent said.

The Crown Prince also said

## Noted journalist remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — A eulogy was held at the Royal Cultural Centre Wednesday in commemoration of the late Ibrahim Sakijha, a noted journalist, 40 days after his passing away.

A group of journalists and former colleagues and associates of the late Mr. Sakijha delivered speeches in praise of him expressing appreciation of his works and his endeavours for the journalism profession in the Kingdom.

Mr. Sakijha, who was born in occupied Palestine in 1926, had worked for the three Arabic dailies — Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab — and had been an active writer and columnist until a few months before his passing, leaving a heart attack.



Ibrahim Sakijha

The speeches Wednesday praised Mr. Sakijha as a true model of dedication and a servant of his country and nation.

## Joint Jordan-Syrian projects to be further discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee on Public Works and Housing is to convene in Amman in the coming month to follow up discussions started last week in Damascus, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Sourour.

In a statement upon returning to Amman at the end of the talks, the minister said that the two sides will discuss means of speeding up work on the Amman-Damascus International Highway and the status and role of the border posts between the two countries.

During his stay in Damascus, the minister and his Syrian counterpart, Mahmoud Nour Abnatah, signed the minutes of deliberations in which they agreed on holding four workshops during the coming year aimed at streamlining public works and housing affairs between the two countries.

The workshops, according to the minister, will deal with such questions as roads, contracting business and construction in general. They agreed to set up committees to prepare for the



Saad Hayel Sourour

projected technical workshops, the minister said.

Other issues discussed included joint Syrian and Jordanian stands at international and regional meetings dealing with matters related to housing or public works, the minister said.

He said that Syria will be represented at a seminar dealing with axial weights on roads which is scheduled to be held in Amman during November.

that army officers, regardless of their former ranks, should embark on agricultural schemes.

Later, Prince Hassan opened the new Irbid municipality building and met with representatives of the local residents.

In a brief speech to the audience, the Regent stressed the need to put an end to the encroachment of buildings and construction operations on agricultural land. He stressed the need for Jordan to be able to ensure food security for the coming century by properly utilising its land.

The new municipality building consists of four floors and includes a cultural centre, a public library, a conference hall and a shopping centre as well as a car park. Prince Hassan praised the efforts to the Irbid Municipality in beautifying the city of Irbid.

Interior Minister Jawdat Eshoul and Irbid parliament deputies were among those attending the inauguration ceremony.

## Draft law seeks to promote investments in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has prepared a draft law, encouraging investments to Jordan, which allows for exemptions from taxes and provides facilities for industrial, agricultural and other projects.

According to the draft law, exemptions will be given to investors in fisheries, educational and touristic projects, maritime transport, restaurants, housing and other ventures considered viable to promote socio-economic development in the Kingdom.

The draft law, which needs to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers and parliament, grants exemptions from duty to inputs required for production, primary materials used in manufacturing products, materials used in industry and raw materials in general.

A special committee will be set up to draw up a list of the materials to be regarded as input elements for industry. Viability studies should be submitted and approved by the ministry.

Also, approval will depend on such elements as the size of the project, the amount of investments and the location of the project, according to the draft law.

Non-Jordanian investors will be granted incentives and exemptions on equal footing with Jordanians and they will be allowed to transfer any amounts of profits abroad.

The draft law authorised the Council of Ministers, upon recommendation from the concerned minister and the committee, the right to extend the period of exemptions for each project.

## Petra Bank hearing focuses on role of two key defendants

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The roles of two former key officials in the activities of the collapsed Petra Bank and whether they could be held accountable for operations which led to massive losses for the bank but allegedly benefited the former management were the focus of the hearings over the last three days of the Military Court trying the Petra Bank cases.

Defence lawyers, seeking to establish that the entire Petra Bank imbroglio was the responsibility of former Chairman Ahmad Chalabi, the first defendant in the cases, also appeared to question whether Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) controls of the banking system were effective.

The lawyers for Hassan Abdul Aziz, former chairman of the Jordan Gulf Bank who also served in the Chalabi management of the Petra Bank, and Hassan Fadel, who served as the Amman representative for the Petra Banking Corporation in Washington, D.C., were cross-examining Maher Waked, a banking executive who was a member of the committee which investigated Petra Bank affairs following its take-over by the CBJ in August 1988.

Findings of the investigation presented by Dr. Waked said that Mr. Abdul Aziz was instrumental in bringing about Petra Bank investments to local companies, which led to losses for the bank but apparently benefited the personal interests of Dr. Chalabi or his family members who owned the ventures. In some cases, according to the committee, it was also found that Mr. Abdul Aziz steered Petra Bank funds into buying shares at inflated prices in companies in which he had a personal

interest.

One of the projects in which Petra Bank funds were invested through a company called Imwas was the Al Waha department store, according to the findings of the committee. Mr. Abdul Aziz, acting on behalf of Petra Bank, bought shares in Imwas, which was in turn controlled by Dr. Chalabi, according to the findings.

Dr. Waked produced a number of documents bearing the signature of Mr. Abdul Aziz to support the committee's findings, which is the cornerstone of the prosecution's case.

The documents, according to the prosecution, support charges of Mr. Abdul Aziz's responsibility not only in the Al Waha case but also in several other loss-making Petra Bank investments.

Lawyers familiar with the Petra Bank cases said the basis of the defence argument was that Dr. Chalabi, founder of Petra Bank — once Jordan's second-largest commercial bank — was the mastermind who controlled all operations in violation of the banking regulations in Jordan.

In the case of Mr. Fadel, the defence is arguing that the defendant was only following the orders of Dr. Chalabi in operations related to the channelling of funds of Jordanian moneychangers to the commodity speculation market in London. The money was first channelled to the Petra Banking Corporation, where it was transferred to a London-based SCF Corporation which was also controlled by Dr. Chalabi, according to the investigating committee.

Such operations, involving "several hundred million dollars," led to huge losses for investors, the prosecution claims.

Among such losses, which led to the collapse of several

leading exchange houses in Jordan, were the funds of Saliba Rizk and Saliba Shukri Rizk — which was declared bankrupt in 1986 after the suicide of Saliba Rizk — and Khalil Masri, another former major moneychanger in Jordan.

(However, the losses in the commodity markets abroad were not the only reason for the collapse of the firms, according to local economists. The total amount involved in the Rizk case was close to JD 18 million).

Mr. Fadel is accused of violating Jordanian banking rules by soliciting Jordanian deposits in foreign currency in the Petra Banking Corporation, which, by law, is defined as a foreign bank, and by encouraging Jordanians to speculate in foreign commodity markets.

Again, Mr. Fadel's defence is based on shifting the entire responsibility to Dr. Chalabi by arguing that he was carrying out the orders of the Iraqi-born banker. To counter this argument, the investigating committee has produced supporting documents, including copies of foreign communications signed by Mr. Fadel directing transactions and transfers.

Cross-examining Dr. Waked were lawyers Saleh Al Beiruti, Suleimao Hadidi and Mahmoud Hamad who, individually or collectively, are representing Mr. Fadel, Mr. Abdul Aziz, Khalil Tadros, Mona (Denis) Tadros and Hiam Habash.

Dr. Waked's testimony was predominantly related to foreign operations of Petra Bank, which is under liquidation.

Dr. Chalabi and several other key defendants are being tried in absentia and are not represented in court after they failed to respond to a court summons.

## Exhibit recounting the horrors of Gulf war to be shown in the United States

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibit depicting the tragedy of one of the Gulf war's most controversial incidents will wind its way through the United States in a few months with explicit pictures and oral testimony by some of the survivors.

The Amiriyah Exhibit, a series of photographs and eyewitness accounts of the bombing of the Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad, is the work of Americans Miriam Martin, her son Christopher Martin, Jill Castek and Jordanian Mohammad Sati.

Members of "Peace Now!", the group spent about a month in Iraq interviewing survivors and local residents about the bombing of the shelter which took the lives of over 250 people. The United States and other allied countries claimed intelligence reports had identified the shelter as a communications centre.

The tragedy sparked a world outcry and some of the harsh criticism about the allied bombing policy during the war.

"I just thought it was so wrong that here is a civilian bomb shelter, and it had to be known to allied forces, and Amiriyah residents felt the same way," said Ms. Martin, who added that satellites could have been used as a way to properly identify the shelter.

"Why was this a target?" Organisers of the exhibit hope to increase Americans' awareness of the human cost of the war, which has been sold in the United States and in the West as high-tech, bloodless and antiseptic, said Ms. Martin.

"Americans have no conception that this wasn't a high-tech war," she said.

"(Words such as) collateral damage were used as if they were things while bombs were 'smart' as if they were human," she added.



Khalida, a survivor of the bombing of the Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad during the Gulf war, holds a picture of the child she lost.

Anesthetised by government and media descriptions of the war, Americans were lulled into acceptance of a war which they were led to believe was not causing any pain, Ms. Martin said.

Still, the exhibit is not only designed to show the Iraqi people's suffering, but also their resilience.

"We don't want pictures of buildings. We wanted pictures of people" to show the rebuilding and the strength of the Iraqi people, said Ms. Martin, who has been in the region since late February and has participated in various peace marches in Iraq, Jordan, the occupied Arab territories and Israel.

The exhibit will relate stories such as that of Umm Chayda (mother of Chayda), who demanded that she continue to be identified that way even though her child perished in the bombing raid at Amiriyah.

In remembrance of those who died, the Peace Now! team planted two trees in Amiriyah. Umm Chayda, Ms. Martin said, believed the soul of her daughter was in one of those trees and watered it every day.

"And if the tree dies, she feels like her daughter will have died again," Ms. Martin said.

The exhibit will also bring to Americans the story of Khalida, who was sleeping in the shelter when the bombs were dropped.

According to Ms. Martin, Khalida struggled to the entrance of the shelter and saved a toddler and a seven-year-old boy but lost her own child in the process.

The exhibit will tour nine American cities — Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Seattle.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan, Yugoslavia discuss relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Subeihat Wednesday received in his office the Yugoslav ambassador to Jordan on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. Discussion in the meeting centred on ways of promoting and bolstering bilateral relations.

### Labour minister meets ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdel Karim Al Dughmi Wednesday received the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan. The meeting discussed ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries particularly in labour-related fields.

### Sports federations' rule to be amended

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Ershaidat Tuesday said that significant amendments to the rules and regulations of sport federations would be proposed in preparation for submitting them to the Jordanian Olympic Committee for debate. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ershaidat singled out a proposed amendment calling for electing half of the sport federations members, as one of the major amendments to be introduced. Federation members were until now selected, rather than elected. He said that the composition of the federations would be reconsidered, because the present composition of these federations is done randomly.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of naive painting, from Germany at Abdul Rameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Radd Duhaimi and Balaad Al Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The annual flower show of the YWCA at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental (Open 4:30-9 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Bouai at the French Cultural Centre.

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## Jordan Times

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## Model of cooperation

EMPEROR FREDERICK II of Germany was crowned King of Jerusalem in 1229. The emperor, who read Arabic and who while King of Sicily wore Arab dresses and "liked Arab women," did not become King of Jerusalem by virtue of his military might, but, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "because of the impact of (his) personality on the Arab World." This is not to suggest that Germany has a claim to Jerusalem. The old city is already burdened by those who claim it and those, present and past, who turned it into a battleground rather than a symbol of peace. We Arabs, in recalling Frederick II's reluctance to lead a crusade, look upon Germany of today as a long-time friend of the Arabs, an old friendship manifested by the fine exchange of letters between the emperor and Al Sultan Al Kamil of Egypt.

In these trying hours of our history, when power centres shift and small and weak nations strive to achieve their rights, we look to the newly united Germany with great hope and trust. We think that Germany, the centre of the European Community, the third industrialist nation in the world and the country credited, through its oil politics, much of the change in Eastern Europe, should assume a much larger role in world affairs. For while the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union are disintegrating, we see the other powers in Europe, especially France and Britain, jumping onto the American bandwagon but hardly having any effect on the U.S.-made "new world order."

In such a "new order," we certainly would like to see our German friends assuming a greater role and taking one of the permanent seats in the Security Council. We believe that the Germans, 20 per cent of whom are still from the World War II generation, should not be kept from influencing the new world order. In the Middle East especially, the Germans have a dual responsibility. While shedding away their guilt feelings about the Jews, they should develop a strong one about the Palestinians. Certainly the Palestine problem is one created by the world that emerged from World War II. We do appreciate that Germany has presently to grapple with its own chores of unity and with the effects of the chaos in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Yet, the threat coming from the Eastern Mediterranean is just as menacing. In his address to the European Parliament yesterday, His Majesty King Hussein warned our European friends that the people of the Middle East "will simply not continue to accept to be treated other than equals with all others in this world. They will not continue for long to see their land produce the major resources of energy for this world's development in return for what they perceive as continued disdain, humiliation and the denial of their national and human rights."

Indeed, it requires the wisdom of people like Frederick II to ensure that justice will prevent vengeance, and cooperation will pre-empt conflict. And our German friends are well placed to exercise such wisdom.

We see the current visit to Jordan of German Economic Cooperation Minister Carl Dieter Spranger as a step towards accomplishing this objective. German-Jordanian relations have been a model to follow between this region of the world and Europe. We would like them to endure and grow even stronger all the time.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY daily Wednesday focused attention on the plight of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have now returned to the Kingdom after serving most of their lives in Kuwait building that country and enabling it to achieve prosperity. The paper said that as these expatriates returned empty-handed deprived of their rights, their savings and their other property and evicted in a most shameful manner on the part of the Kuwaiti government, we hear of no protest against such action on the part of the United States or Britain, neither did we read any statement by a Western official condemning such atrocity committed against innocent civilians. In his statement on Jordan Television the Crown Prince referred to this fact and called on the Western countries to come to the aid of the Jordanian-Palestinian community being resettled in Jordan, the paper noted. It said while we hear of billions of dollars being spent by Washington to settle Jews emigrating into occupied Palestine from the Soviet Union, nothing is being done to the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who are rightly entitled to compensation and should not be left displaced, without any source of income or shelter. A total of 300,000 expatriates are now settled in the Kingdom which, the paper said, has been reeling under the effects of the embargo imposed on it along with Iraq. It said we had hoped that the United States would be fair and come to the help of the expatriates being evicted from the emirate for no reason at all; and we had hoped that it would help the Kingdom which is now struggling to shoulder this new burden.

Al Dustour daily tackled the current Arab League Council meeting which is being attended by all Arab countries to discuss the Palestine question among other topics. It is regrettable indeed to see such an important meeting being held in secret with no access to the media to learn about the discussions at a time when the Arab masses are hoping to see a gleam of hope as to the solution of numerous problems plaguing the Arab World, the paper noted. The meeting is being held at a time when the Arab Nation is at its worst situation with no solidarity among the members of the Arab League that has been set up to protect Arab interests, the paper added. The Arab League member countries ought to address the pressing issues like the embargo on Iraq, the plight of the Palestinians in Kuwait and other vital issues, taking a collective stand towards safeguarding Arab national interests, the paper demanded. The Arab League should have a responsibility towards the coming generations and, said the paper, it is hoped that the foreign ministers attending the meeting now will take a meaningful step that can contribute a little towards the march towards solidarity.

## Exclusive yet not exquisite: a tale of woe

By Safwan Bataineh

FOR the longest time now I have had an urge to relate a tale of little moral significance to my readers (all five of them) but was checked from doing so by a curious aversion to professional suicide. However, when my editor finally despaired of finding decent writers who are willing to fill Thursdays' page four with original masterpieces for a kiss and a handshake and took to showering me with friendly and reassuring smiles, I knew I could risk forwarding my tale to him and still be around to publish my scribbles come next Thursday.

This tale is about an ancient and powerful order that feeds parasitically upon the beautiful but hopeless country of Berinji-land. The order is known as the Civil Service Order, though the name bears no relation to the functions actually performed. It is steeped in a long and rich tradition of soporific lethargy that dates back to the Middle-Age dynasty of the Black Beards which reigned supreme over the Berinji region for hundreds of years. Its rites and customs were modified only once since then during the early century colonial rule of Goldie Locks.

The order is so powerful that almost all activities in Berinji-land are controlled by it or subject to its control. Every conceivable enterprise, from importing Pierre Cardin suits (available only to choice patrons) to staging plays and dance shows, is performed by members of the Order. And when ordinary citizens are permitted

to undertake certain commercial activities — after the order verifies their desirability — they do so at the risk of arbitrary interference by members of the Order who are always eager to instruct the plebeians on the proper ways of doing things.

The Order maintains this tight control through a maze of edict laws and regulations that are binding only to ordinary citizens. Total freedom of arbitrary action is guaranteed for the Order by the lack of procedure manuals or job descriptions to define the roles and authority of any member or group of members. Also, clauses are attached to all laws stipulating that regardless of the aforementioned, the Order reserves the right to do whatever it damn pleases.

Like all successful orders, the Civil Service Order perpetuates its unique structure and values by retaining a high degree of exclusivity. New memberships are granted only to impressionable and pliant young men and women, preferably ones who are bereft of ambitions. Those are then cultivated, molded, and cast irreversibly into paragons of sloth and indolence. Entry at any level other than the most junior one is strictly forbidden in order to keep away elements that are contaminated by foreign values and influences. Of course, the Order occasionally fails to induce the proper values into a member and he or she continues to exhibit an annoying inclination for uninvited initiatives. Such

subversive elements are either frustrated into capitulation or ignored until inactivity renders them useless anyhow.

Although members are guaranteed their membership for life or thirty years, whichever comes first, high priests and senior members are sometimes sacrificed after just twenty years in order to appease the council of wise men (and two women) who are appointed by the benevolent ruler of Berinji-land and directed to steer the country on the path of prosperity. These sacrifices are part of the efforts expended by the Order to ensure that the council of wise men (and two women) fail to initiate any serious and lasting reforms. Other means employed to achieve this end include producing long and tedious proposals on administrative reforms written in esoteric language and containing the most superficial of ideas in a deliberate effort to divert the wise men's attention from more serious issues. But the most effective strategem is to deluge the council with a continuous flood of routine and inconsequential matters to keep it from spending any appreciable amount of time on major policy initiatives.

I would not be exaggerating if I single out the Order as the biggest obstacle to Berinji-land's strive for modernisation. But that is Berinji-land's lookout. My only concern is that the Order may attempt to branch out into Jordan. A remote possibility, of course, considering that almost no activity can escape the watchful eyes of our bureaucracy.

## King: Jordan well placed on democratic path; injustice will usher in unpredictable change

The following is the full text of the address made by His Majesty King Hussein to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1991.

Mr. President of the European Parliament,  
Mr. President of the Council,  
Mr. President of the Commission,  
Distinguished members of Parliament,

IT is with a deep sense of historic responsibility that I stand before you today addressing this august body — the honourable representatives of the peoples of the European Community States, members of the European Parliament.

I thank you most sincerely for the privilege and honour of your invitation to address you at this critical and exciting time of change on our planet earth. I hope I may succeed in sharing with you, in friendship and with candour, my innermost feelings, hopes and assessments which I believe reflect those of the proud people of Jordan who have committed themselves to democracy and pluralism, and the safeguarding of human rights.

Jordan today is one of the states of the fractured greater Arab homeland, once the dream of all Arabs to be their united home under freedom, from where they would resume their effective contribution to human civilisation and progress. Ours is a relatively small country in terms of its size and population. Yet, Jordan has throughout its comparatively short history been the land of the brave, the principled and the compassionate. Devoid of significant natural resources and for ever destined to face up to the most testing of challenges, Jordanians have born their boman and moral responsibilities and become known as the educators, builders, innovators and defenders of security and stability within the Arab World. Jordan has been the haven of the persecuted, the uncompromising challenger to the forces of terror and darkness, the immoral, the power seekers, the exploiters of human misery and despair.

Jordan is central in the region which was the birthplace of civilisation and the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions which followed one another to illuminate humanity in the worship of the one God — the lands of the people of the Book. Muslims submit only to God and revere his prophets and messengers. Muslims revere Abraham as they do all the prophets, messengers and true followers, since the meaning of Islam is submission to the one God.

Jordan, which has suffered every shock and trauma that afflicted the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular, ever since the Palestinian/Arab/Israeli conflict first erupted, is now, once again, struggling to share, with humility and compassion, its destiny with the victims of the third major expulsion of Palestinians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin, this time primarily from Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf crisis. When Palestinians were first forced into the diaspora in the forties, only Jordan in the entire Arab World received and provided them with its nationality in recognition of their most basic human rights, while they await the recognition and restoration of their legitimate political rights on their legitimate Palestinian soil.

Jordan, on the other hand, has had to bear the major burden during every phase of the continuing Palestinian suffering. We have had to absorb the impact of ever growing humanitarian responsibilities while struggling to achieve for all our people stabil-

ity, progress and prosperity with what little we received irregularly in material assistance. For example, Jordan's entire national debt has accumulated as a direct result of Arab states defaulting on their commitments of regular annual support over an initial ten year period, at the Baghdad Arab Summit Conference in 1978. Of all the concerned Arab states only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has consistently honoured its commitment to Jordan in full. This brought about our first major economic near disaster in 1989. Jordan has received no Arab assistance since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, thus further straining our ability to implement plans for our economic recovery. The situation has been further exacerbated by the relocation to Jordan of Palestinians and Jordanians from the Gulf, some of them sadly bearing the scars and trauma of vicious and inhuman abuses.

Jordan, has always cherished as her most precious natural resource her people; we can view with pride our achievements over the past decade in the field of human development. We are one of ten countries in the world to have achieved the fastest reduction in infant mortality over the past two decades. We were two years ahead of the average rate of the rest of the world in achieving universal child immunisation. Our rates of literacy, education, and access to health services and clean water are among the highest in the developing world, and in many cases approach rates in the industrialised states of the North. Yet, all this could now be jeopardised if the current economic implosion is not arrested and reversed.

My country's march on the road of democracy, which was interrupted by the 1967 war, resumed following the severing of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank on the 31st July, 1988. The severance of the ties came in response to Palestinian and Arab demands and in recognition of the Palestinians' desire for their distinctive identity and the reaffirmation of their rights on their Palestinian soil. Before that it had been impossible to hold parliamentary free elections involving the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Jordan is leading the Arab World towards true democracy and pluralism even before the winds of change took Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and others by storm in this era of constant change. It was my proud decision to redemocratised Jordan and it was my privilege to call upon all Jordanians, regardless of their origins and representing all political forces, to participate in a Royal Commission to forge, through constructive dialogue, our National Charter. This paved the way for pluralism and the emergence of political parties with the endorsement of the Charter by a National Congress on the 9th of June, 1991. The Charter committed all political forces to respect the total political status of the Jordanian armed and security forces. These forces will continue to provide our national shield against all threats and remain committed to the defence of the land, the people and their human rights and freedoms under the Constitution.

I am proud to have succeeded throughout my political life in guiding Jordan away from the danger of autocratic rule or the single party system and the politicisation of the armed and security forces. I am proud to have enabled my country's men and women to move in equality towards democracy. We strove to transform Jordan into a beacon of hope to be an example which I honestly believe all Arabs aspire to emulate. If we have had to suffer for providing this example then we are proud to have done so.

The Gulf crisis continues — the crisis we attempted to reverse peacefully as a sacred duty and within our rights as members of the Arab League of Nations. May I add here that this crisis erupted during my presidency of the Arab Cooperation Council which, until then, comprised Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and the Yemen — another reason for me to actively involve myself in seeking a peaceful political solution, added to which was my record and that of my country of a constant struggle to achieve Arab cohesion. We are continuing to pay for our sincere attempt to achieve that end — to avert a war which would inevitably tear the very fabric of our Arab family. The war resulted in terrible human losses and continuing untold human suffering to present and future generations. Further serious violations of human rights and environmental damage to the region and the world is not yet fully realised or controlled.

The war cost all Arabs great material losses leaving ever deepening wounds that will continue to bleed until the winds of change, if not heeded, will be turned by hatred, deprivation and despair into a violent storm of unpredictable change in the entire Arab and Muslim world.

This inevitable reality must be recognised by all in our region and by all in our world. The winds of change which have brought down swiftly, unexpectedly, and in some cases violently, the forces of autocracy, dictatorship and single party rule in different parts of the world, will sweep our world where I suggest, that in the absence of positive movement, none should expect less. The Arab and Muslim peoples will not continue to remain comatose.

The people in our region will simply not continue to accept to be treated other than as equals with all others in this world. They will not continue for long to see their land produce the major sources of energy for this world's development in return for what they perceive as continued disdain, humiliation and the denial of their national and human rights.

What was Jordan's position on the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq? We stood true to our principles and consistent with our position on every similar previous case of the acquisition of territories by war. The preamble of Security Council Resolution 242 adopted on the 22nd of November, 1967, which I helped formulate, derived from the Charter of the United Nations, cited the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by war. That was our position on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait notwithstanding our extremely close relations with Iraq and our grave and continued concern and empathy with all the people of Iraq. Our position on the invasion and occupation of Kuwait was consistent with our position on the Cyprus crisis, the Falklands crisis and one which we will continue to take again should such a new act of occupation of territory by war repeat itself in any other part of the world.

Additionally, we simply sought to exercise our right to help reverse the tragic event which took place on the 2nd of August, 1990 and to resolve peacefully the causes that had brought it about. We have since published a White Paper outlining major events as we lived them, accurately, concisely and chronologically. The White Paper is a bare sketch of Jordan's policies in the face of the shocking tragic events which erupted on the 2nd of August, 1990, apportioning blame on none but purely relating facts for posterity.

Some, for whatever reasons, sadly chose from the outset to market with vigour a distorted version of the truth and persist in their attempts at rewriting history. On our side, however, is the truth and a record that has stood the test of time for principled policies, honour, moral integrity and courage.

Jordan today is suffering from serious hardship and mounting inexplicable pressures from many quarters. To cite some examples. Ships operating to and from our only seaport at Aqaba have been continuously harassed. Four hundred and one ships have been intercepted, delayed, turned back, or diverted to other ports over the period beginning in August of 1990 until the 5th September, 1991. Traditional markets for our mineral, agricultural and industrial products have been adversely affected. No other state neighbouring Iraq has been similarly treated. Our national airline, our ambassador of good will to the world, is threatened before our efforts to privatise and reorganise it materialise. All of our modern fleet of Airbus and Lockheed Tristar aircraft had to be evacuated to Europe for the duration of the crisis as the high insurance premiums gave us no alternative. The Airbus fleet remained grounded as the duration of the crisis said, "As a result, don't have the income to repay the cost in accordance with the original planned schedule."

Ours is a land of history, scenic beauty and hospitality and tourism is one of our major industries. Jordan is an international and regional crossroad. For an almost land-locked country, air travel and aerial links with the world are of great importance. Our achievements in the field of civil aviation are unmatched. They were the inevitable results of dedication, imagination, courage and professionalism. Our national airline is now operating at full capacity. Plans for privatisation and reorganisation are well under way. However, we have been advised that the Airbus fleet may be withdrawn shortly because of our current inability to pay the arrears. If this happens we shall not only lose this modern fleet but also all of what we had paid back from our revenues, both before and since the crisis, the Royal Jordanian Airlines would thus be dealt a crippling blow.

During the crisis one million people transited Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq to their respective countries. We did all we could for them. As a result of the first economic crisis of 1989 and the relocation to Jordan of some 230,000 Palestinians and Jordanians from Kuwait and the Gulf — expected to reach 300,000 by the end of 1991 — unemployment has soared to unprecedented levels and presently stands at 32 per cent including 83 per cent unemployment amongst returnees, while schools are having to absorb an additional 13 per cent of students into a crowded educational system by December 1991. Tens of thousands of Iraqis are also in Jordan seeking asylum from the ever growing human tragedy afflicting the people of

Iraq. Jordan is attempting to cope with all this in its traditional manner of compassion and generosity. The burden under which we are struggling grows heavier by the day.

It behoves our world to uphold the same standards in dealing with all problems of a similar nature wherever they occur. Our world must unite in peace and share equally in efforts to hand over a better legacy to future generations. Power in our world must not be recognised in terms of the material and physical only, otherwise it would be greedy, misguided, unethical and dangerous. Power in our world must be identified with a sense of responsibility and the strictest adherence to lofty principles and ideals. True knowledge is an asset for all of us to tackle life's challenges, yet half truths and the illusion of knowledge based on what we hear and read alone could lead to meet dangerous consequences.

Wars must be averted in our world. The price of waging them is too high for us to bear in the human, environmental and material dimensions. Truth must not be kept from the peoples of the world regarding the growing threats to the continued existence of mankind. The global environmental state is ominously precarious. Action must be taken by the United Nations, international organisations, governments and peoples to outlaw and prevent further environmental degradation by war.

The continued and growing depletion of the ozone layer must be addressed. The continued destruction of the tropical rain forests requires urgent attention. Global warming is a present reality and an ever increasing threat to the survival of the human race.

The oil fires in Kuwait must be extinguished as rapidly as possible and the resultant effects of these fires and emissions on the global environment must be continuously monitored. The continued damage to land masses, seas and oceans as a result of oil spills, unsafe dumping of toxic chemicals and nuclear waste must be stopped and wherever possible redressed.

The continued production, sale

and use of dangerous chemicals jeopardising the global environment for material gains must be stopped. Weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and bacteriological — must be controlled and eventually eliminated.

We all have a stake in what is already happening to life on our planet. We must all work together to avert the disaster which is in sight. We all bear a responsibility to act in unison before it is too late.

I am indeed encouraged by recent developments in our region. I know we share the hope that the proposed peace conference and process to resolve the Arab/Israeli problem in both its Palestinian/Israeli and Arab/Israeli dimensions will shortly materialise and meet with success. We are eager to contribute our full share to resolving this root cause of instability in our region. President George Bush spoke before the joint Houses of Congress on the 6th of March, 1991 outlining the United States policy towards the problem. He said:

"A comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace. This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and at the same time for legitimate Palestinian political rights. The time has come to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Subsequent actions have been welcomed by us including the sponsorship of the two original sponsors, and, in particular, the participation of Europe in the process, with the United Nations assuming an observer status. Since the outcome of the peace process will be presented to the United Nations Security Council on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338, we found the formula to be acceptable. That only the Palestinians shall represent themselves is what we have always sought. We have offered an umbrella under which they could do so if they wished while Jordanians address their own direct responsibilities. We have indeed welcomed the broader participation.

## LETTERS

### Music and politics

"ART transcends politics." Or so I thought until last night's performance by the Baghdad Chamber Ensemble. A group of six outstanding Iraqi performers captivated their audience during two hours of well-balanced, nicely performed and impeccably executed music. I went to the concert eager to find out what caliber of musicians Iraq could possibly produce after so many years of hardship, only to be pleasantly surprised by the quality of musicianship I witnessed.

I was, however, disturbed by the relatively poor attendance — less than half the hall was occupied. Notable in the paucity of their presence were members of the foreign community, diplomatic and otherwise. Whereas at most classical music performances in Amman roughly two thirds of the audience is European (and some Americans), this time they amounted to one or two dozen people only.

Was this another form of boycotting Iraq? Or could it have been due to the belief that an Arab group of musicians would only produce music of inferior quality. I have already stated my opinion of this group and only hope that we could have more such performances in the future. That would certainly be better than some of the third rate Western musicians dumped on us in the Third World ...

Dr. Ezzam Azar,  
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

إلى من لا يعرف

## Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid: as my life played me a serenade, I danced around it like a gypsy

Until her death last week, Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid was nearly as old as the century yet, history will record that she was one of the brightest stars of a family which illustrates the Ottoman Empire's seductive combination of grandeur and emancipation.

By Philip Mansel

TURKISH women could lead independent and challenging lives even before the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. At the Ottoman court the harem was a separate female power-base which could decide the future of sultans and viziers. After the Young Turk revolution of 1908, the writer Halide Edib, a friend of the Bloomsbury group, helped found the Society for the Elevation of Women. And on June 6, 1919, unveiled, she made a famous speech in Istanbul's Sultanahmet Square, urging the huge crowd to liberate Izmır from the Greeks.

There were modern girls' schools in Istanbul and one of their most emancipated pupils, in 1920, was Fahrelnissa Zeid of Jordan.

Her family history illustrates the Ottoman Empire's seductive combination of grandeur and nobility. Prin-

cess Fahrelnissa's grandfather Asim came from a family of teachers in Afyon Karahisar in Anatolia. Since they disapproved of his desire to be a soldier, he arrived in Istanbul, hidden under a pile of vegetables. He eventually became one of the five members of the Military Council of the Empire.

His eldest son, Cevat Pasha, was appointed Grand Vizier in 1891 at the age of 40. Cevat Pasha was a particularly cultivated member of the late Ottoman élite. He spoke Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Italian and French, wrote a history of the Ottoman army, employed a French gardener to look after his orchids and was also a skilled potter and photographer.

Princess Fahrelnissa's father, Cevat Pasha's younger brother Sakir Pasha, a prominent officer, ambassador and historian, was shot dead by his own son, Cevat, in 1914. The family said it



Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid

was an accident. However, Cevat, whose extravagance and determination to be an artist had led to many quarrels with his father, was accused of murder.

In prison and then in Bodrum (Halicarnassus) on the Aegean, "the fisherman of Halicarnassus," as he came

to be known, had ample opportunity to realise his talents. He became one of Turkey's best-known novelists and essayists, writing in a simple natural style about the local people, landscape and archaeology.

Princess Fahrelnissa was born in 1901 in the large wooden family house on Büyükdade, one of the Princes' Isles in the Sea of Marmara south of Istanbul. She was educated at the Pensionnat Broggetto and the Academy of Fine Arts founded by Sultan Abdul Hamid. Her first husband, Izzet Melih Devrim, president of the Imperial Ottoman Tobacco Monopoly, was a writer and a Francophile and she was able to continue her art studies in Paris.

Like most of the Ottoman élite, her family rallied to the Republic. Her brothers-in-law, Emin Pasha and Ahmed, fought in the War of Independence; Princess Fahrelnissa knew Atatürk and attended some of the historic conferences in Dolmabahçe Palace.

After the dissolution of her first marriage in 1934 she married Prince Zeid, a member of the Hashemite Arab dynasty which has helped create the modern Middle East. Prince Zeid's father Sherif Hussein Bin Ali, Emir of Mecca, launched the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1916. One of Prince Zeid's brothers was the Emir Abdullah, grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein. Another was King Faisal of Iraq.

Like many Arab leaders of the first half of the 20th

century, Prince Zeid was a product of Istanbul in its last days of imperial glory, when differences between Turks and Arabs were less significant than their shared Ottoman Muslim heritage.

Just as Princess Fahrelnissa was a Turk with an Arab grandmother, so Prince Zeid was an Arab with a Turkish mother. Born in 1898 in Istanbul, where his father was the Sultan's guest (or prisoner), he knew Turkish well. Despite revolting against the Ottoman Empire, the Hashemites maintained a residence in its former capital, the Serifer Köskü, overlooking the Bosphorus, where Prince and Princess Zeid lived for a time.

Prince Zeid then pursued a dazzling diplomatic career, serving as Iraqi ambassador in Ankara under Atatürk, in Berlin under Hitler and in London under Churchill and Eden.

People still remember the splendour of the banquet Prince and Princess Zeid gave in honour of the state visit to Eogland of their great-nephew King Faisal II of Iraq in 1956. Two years later, the young king was murdered with his family in Baghdad. The prince and his family had to exchange the embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens for a quiet life in a flat Oakwood Court, London.

Although she enjoyed her position as an ambassador's wife, Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid did not allow it to overshadow her career as an artist. One of those fortunate people who know how to make the most of their lives, she says: "As my life played me a serenade, I danced around it like a gypsy."

She has painted all her life and is confident of her status as a great artist. "When I am painting I am always aware of a kind of communion with all living things... I then cease to be myself in order to become part of an impersonal creative process that throws out these paintings much as an erupting volcano throws out rocks and lava. Often I am aware of what I have painted only when the canvas is at last finished."

Her art, like her life, is an intoxicating mixture of East and West. At first she used a semi-impressionist style, but after 1950 she turned to abstract art and painted as a member of the Ecole de Paris. Even at the height of her abstract phase there seemed to be an element of oriental design in her choice of colours and patterns.

Some of her portraits — those of King Hussein's eldest daughter Princess Alia and of a bedouin family, for example — are partly in-

spired by the hieratic figures and mosaics in Byzantine churches. Spurred by her discovery of cookery after her husband ceased to be ambassador, she also made surrealist collages of chicken or turkey bones and stones, set in glass and resin and powered by small electric motors, which she called palaeochrysalos.

They were so admired by André Malraux when he was minister of culture under General de Gaulle that he placed one on his desk. The princess has held exhibitions at locations as varied as the Gimpel Gallery in London in 1949, the Hittite Museum in Ankara in 1964, the Katia Granoff Gallery in Paris in 1969, and the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in 1983.

When Prince Zeid died in 1970, Princess Fahrelnissa decided to move to Amman, the capital of her great nephew King Hussein, to be near her son Prince Ra'ad, Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Hashemite Court and the father of five children (including a young daughter called Fahrelnissa).

From the outside, the princess's small stone villa looks like many others in the suburbs of Amman. Inside, in the words of her daughter by her first marriage Sirin Devrim, it is a "miracle of colour, opulence and excitement."

Her L-shaped drawing-room is full of framed family photographs, her own dramatic pictures (covering the ceiling as well as every inch of the walls) and whirling palaeochrysalos. The princess's villa also acts as headquarters of the Royal National Jordanian Fine Arts Institute. Fahrelnissa Zeid, for, despite old age and ill-health, she is the teacher and inspiration of many devoted pupils. She used to give lessons every Wednesday and still paints every day.

Her personality was so warm and enveloping, her conversation so fascinating — the critic Cemil Eren compared her to a magnetic storm — that visitors found it hard to leave. As her orderly poured more champagne, talk ranged from the colour of the dresses worn by her mother's slaves in Istanbul to the strange death of King Ghazi of Iraq in Baghdad, from tea with Hitler in the Reichskanzlei to the exploits of her husband in World War I.

Princess Fahrelnissa was not the only member of her bright and relentless family to have devoted herself to the arts. Her sister Aliye Berger, who married a Hungarian violinist, was an acclaimed etcher and held a legendary salon in an old house in



Palaeochrysalos

Beyoğlu, the "European" quarter of Istanbul.

In "Strolling Through Istanbul," Hilary Summer Boyd and John Freely, wrote that she was "one of the most fascinating and entertaining women in this or any other city. For more years than she can hope to forget, Aliye's place has been the madcap centre of the local artistic scene."

The Sakirs' cosmopolitanism is as extraordinary as their commitment to the arts. It is a relic of Ottoman Istanbul, when it was a junction of cultures and religions, as well as a tribute to the age of the global village. Frontiers mean nothing to this gifted multiethnic tribe, whose members live in New York, Istanbul, Amman and Kraków, home of Princess Fahrelnissa's son Nejad Devrim, who is also a painter and is married to a Pole.

A typically cosmopolitan and spirited occasion, marvellously described by her daughter Sirin Devrim in "Stars of Istanbul," is the birthday of Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid in Amman. Wear-

ing a long black evening gown and sitting in one of the large gilt armchairs from the house of her uncle the Grand Vizier, which have followed her wherever she lived, she first receives her children and grandchildren.

As her daughter-in-law Majda, wife of Prince Ra'ad, is Swedish, in accordance with a Swedish custom they arrive early in the morning wearing wigs and funny clothes.

Prince Zeid, whose dark-eyed brooding portrait dominates the room, courted her when they were playing tennis, so her birthday cake is in the shape of a tennis racket. Other food is Turkish — pilav, grilled lamb, clotted cream and honey — enhanced by caviar and champagne.

Jordanian sentries are at the door; a Polish band plays Arabic and American tunes; and bouquets of flowers arrive from King Hussein and Queen Noor. Guests troop in bearing splendid presents. The princess declares: "I am so happy, so happy. We are all together with the stars."

The profile of Princess Fahrelnissa was published in the Turkish magazine, *Turquoise*.



The Bosphorus (1943)

## Petra wakes up slowly from Gulf crisis slumber

By Nicholas Phythian  
Reuters

PETRA — Petra, the ancient rose-red city carved from the mountains of southern Jordan, is reawakening slowly from a deep and unwanted sleep induced by the Gulf crisis.

Tourists frightened off by neighbouring Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year are starting to rediscover the delights of the 2,400-year-old fortress city that lay hidden from the world for centuries.

But six months after the Gulf war their numbers remain a fraction of what they were in the heady days before the crisis when locals dreamed of doubling the number of visitors.

"It was a terrible season for us," guide Mohammad Salamin said as he walked through the early morning

sunshine from the nearly-empty government Resthouse. "When the war started it was as though someone threw a switch. We spent four months waiting and waiting."

Mr. Salamin, born in the adjoining town of Wadi Musa 46 years ago and a guide on and off since 1963, said the 1967 Middle East War, in which Israel occupied the West Bank, was kinder on Petra than the Gulf crisis.

"While the 1967 war was going on we still used to get some individual parties," he added wistfully.

Petra, about 200 kilometres south of Amman, was the capital of the Nabataean Arabs who lived by levying taxes on the main caravan route north from the Arabian peninsula.

Expanded by the Romans whose contributions included a paved road and theatre with

seats for 3,000 and taken over by the Christian Byzantine Empire and later the Arabs, it declined in importance after a shift in the trade routes.

It was forgotten and its location lost to the outside world until Swiss explorer John Burckhardt rediscovered it at the end of the 19th century.

Many in Wadi Musa, a town of 12,000 people near to the Siq or narrow passage through the mountains into Petra, depend on tourists directly or indirectly for their livelihood.

Apart from those working for the small hotels, there are about 60 souvenir sellers, 30 guides and 360 bedouins with horses offering tourists rides into the heart of the city.

"From Jan. 10 to the end of February (during the Gulf war) ... no one came to Petra," said Niyazi Shabaao,

head of the Wadi Musa Tourism Department.

"Now we get approximately 100 per day. If you compare that with the past months it's great."

Souvenir seller Ali Motlak, a bedouin born in Petra, said that before the crisis, more than 1,000 tourists would visit the city on some days.

"We hope that after one month or two months the people will start to come again," he added, as he stood at his stall selling bedouin silver necklaces and other trinkets.

A record 125,000 people visited Petra in 1990, even though the second half of the year was a washout. In April alone, there were 21,000 visitors.

"This year so far we have had just 12,000," Mr. Shabaao said. Mohammad Tal, manager

of the government Guesthouse, has a chart on his wall which shows month after month of losses — a total of 270,000 dinars (\$450,000) in all during the crisis.

"July was a loss but we are now breaking even," he said. Mr. Tal said the crisis hit the small hotels particularly badly. "The government has been helping them," he added.

Many in Wadi Musa looked for alternative work. "A lot of people were sitting without work for a year. They borrowed money from their families," said Mr. Motlak, 35, who worked as a taxi driver. Others worked as labourers or went to Aqaba on the Red Sea to find jobs.

There were even mutterings among the bedouins that they would have to put down their horses for lack of food. In the event, the Brooke

Hospital for Horses, a charity set up by an Englishwoman in Egypt, came to the rescue.

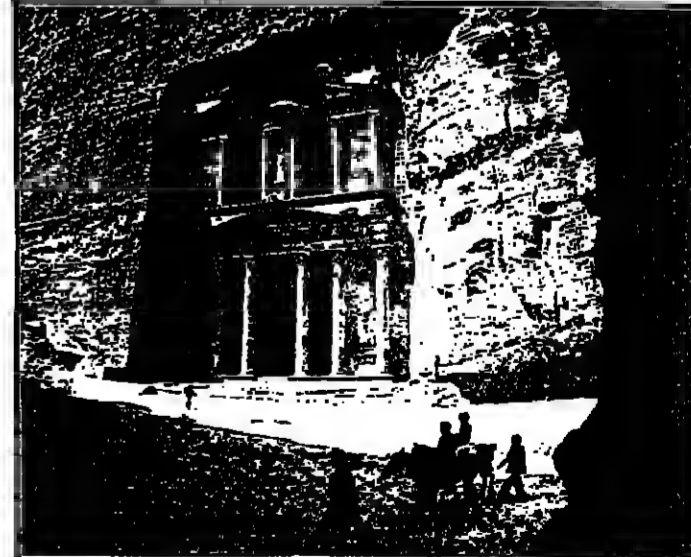
"During the crisis this society took care of feeding the horses," Mr. Shabaao said.

Before the crisis, tourism earned Wadi Musa about JD2 million (more than \$3 million) a year — about half of the total going to the government Guesthouse and the Petra Forum, the other main hotel.

Both are now expanding and building new rooms in anticipation of better days ahead. There is also talk of reviving pre-crisis plans for two new 300-bed hotels.

"We were supposed to have an income of three million dinars (\$5 million) by this year," Mr. Shabaao said, adding that they had been hoping for 250,000 visitors.

The tourists are starting to drift back. Traditionally they



The rock-cut monument of the Treasury in Petra

come from Europe, particularly Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Britain. But before the crisis Japanese and Koreans were starting to put in an appearance. For the handful of tourists who have made it this year,

however, Petra now is Petra as it ought to be seen.

"Good day for it, mate," said one Australian with a crewcut and kibag as he wandered through the near-deserted central valley. "There's no one around."

## Hospital visits

By Maha Addasi

IF you want to make somebody in hospital even sicker, just visit them there — and to those who are being visited, my deepest condolences.

People have the weirdest ways of greeting the ill. They just have to go up to them, pump their arm and kiss them. They also have to lean against them while kissing them. Then they say something like, "you really look tired." Which miraculously is the very reason why the patient is still in hospital.

Then of course there are the restrictions on what can be taken into the patient's room. For example, food seems to be restricted in some hospitals, but as far as food goes, it has been witnessed that everything short of live-chicken has been smuggled into the patient's room. Of course that food always depends on the patient's favourite.

Sometimes the patient can not even think about favourite food, let alone actually eat it. But what can we say. Visitors just care about the patient so much. They also love them to pieces, all of a sudden. They could have gone months without visiting the patient when he or she were in good health. But the minute he gets sick and pops into hospital, they want to rush to the hospital to see in what shape the patient is really in. "She looks better than I thought," they whisper to each other as they leave, almost as though disappointed.

When the patient is a woman who has just delivered, the visitors visit along with their children whom they promise they will see "the little baby." So the children come along for this educational visit because this is their chance to poke a baby at close range on this outing. The parents contribute greatly and often make the most of this educational trip. "See how small the baby's hands are, this is how you were when you were babies." This often triggers a *je ne sais quoi*, you could call it an instinctive need to learn, and the kids hunch onto the baby to extend its fingers to see exactly how big the tiny hand is. Which of course jolts the baby awake once again. And you wonder why people of old went to a secluded area in the woods to give birth.

When the nurse comes in to announce that visiting time is up, she finds everyone sitting on the bed with the patient.



"There just weren't enough seats for all of us 26 people in here!" They exclaim. At which time a trained nurse should ask if there is enough oxygen in the room for the visitors to breathe?

All in all, a sick person would eventually develop a strong hatred for people, which in turn would be unhealthy for the patient. It is very possible that if the patient is pushed far enough he or she could develop some kind of nervous habit and will soon be moved to a different kind of hospital where there will be straightjackets and peace of mind because there, they will never ever get any visitors.

## Ancient Chinese instrument enjoyed by foreigners

By Denise Young  
Reuter

HONG KONG — Zhang Yan, a top performer on the guzheng, says foreigners often appreciate the music of the 3,000-year-old stringed instrument better than the Chinese, who invented it.

The guzheng (pronounced Goo-Jung) is a large, horizontal zither-like instrument with 25 strings and a range of more than three octaves. It makes "sweepingly romantic music, full of aching phrases," said a reviewer in the New York Times.

So romantic can the strains of the guzheng be that the Chinese fail to appreciate it, said Zhang, who left China for the United States in a search of freedom of expression.

"I prefer playing to foreign audiences because they feel the music with their hearts. Chinese audiences listen more for technique," she said during a concert trip to Hong Kong.

"This is a very expressive instrument. When I play the guzheng I feel like I am talking to my audience."

Zhang discovered the guzheng when she was a 14-year-old piano student in Shanghai in the 1950s, partly thanks to then Premier Chou Enlai's efforts to revive traditional instruments.

"I was walking past a recital hall one day when I heard this sound, the most beautiful sound I had ever heard."

"When I found out it was the guzheng, I immediately vowed to learn how to play it," she said.

While this is a quintessentially Chinese instrument that has changed little in the past 3,000 years, Zhang said her repertoire did not become truly creative until she emigrated to the United States in 1983.

"In China there are so many restrictions. It is very hard to develop new styles there," she said. "All the best guzheng composers are now in New York. In China

anything that is new or creative is banned as a threat to social stability."

She has pioneered innovations such as playing two guzhengs at the same time with a full orchestra.

Her repertoire includes classical works from the Tang, Song, Ming and Qing dynasties (618-1911) as well as new pieces inspired by music from South East Asia and Japan.

Some of the introspective classical works reflect a Confucian idea that music should be played only by the scholarly elite to improve character.

Others are grand and rousing celebrations of such themes as warfare and harvest.

Zhang said many of her Chinese audiences find the new works — ranging from pieces inspired by the Indonesian gamelan (a kind of xylophone) to computerised compositions — hard to take.

"When I played one of the new works to my students in Taiwan they were too respectful to say it sounded

awful. They just said they didn't understand it," she said.

Asked how she gets such range and depth from the old wooden instrument, Zhang cites her broad musical training.

"I didn't just learn the instrument, I also learnt music theory, the piano, and listened to a lot of symphony orchestras."

She owes part of her success to husband Liu Qichao, a composer who added flute, piano and percussion ensembles to her performances.

Liu was a factory worker from northern Shandong province sent to Shanghai in the 1960s to learn music under a government policy to bring culture to the masses.

Zhang said she would rather forget the chaotic years of radicalism when she was exiled to the countryside to work on a farm.

"I don't need to worry like in China before, that they would say this is bad for society, that anything modern is no good."

## A festival of fools

By E. Yaghi

Hanada fried falafel in the hot morning sun. Her dark amber eyes scanned the park that lay in a depression in the centre of a small town in the eastern part of the U.S. Some football players kicked a ball and whistles trilled. At the opposite end of the park, on a raised platform, a band of singers and musicians competed for the attention of a very informal audience dressed mostly in shorts and dark glasses which ward off the glare of the summer sun. Yet summertime and the living is easy. Easy for some; that is. Easy if one is an American dog for example who belongs to rich owners. Easy for the rich owner too, but not easy for the homeless man who staggered around the crowds arguing with everyone he pleased and begging from those who showed signs of sympathy. Not many paid attention to him though as he had to outstep the blast of modern music and he physically was incapable of such efforts for long because of his chronic alcoholism.

Hanada stood under the protective tent, wiping sweat off her thick brows which knitted in perplexion. "How?" she asked a co-worker busy beside her. "How can this man afford to drink if he's homeless and has no money?"

"Oh," she was assured, "he just begs for food and drink and that's how he lives. He comes to the festival every year and he fights just like he's doing now as he wobbles all over the place. Sometimes he demands booze, sometimes food."

She scratched her head in confusion. She would never understand these Americans. She felt sorry for some, but she hated most of them. She had been in America four months now. From the minute she set foot in this weird country as a new bride of an X-ray technologist, a wave of homesickness swept over her. Now, more than ever, she missed her family she left behind in the West Bank.

Scenes of the intifada were forever carved in her mind. Like the days of the Gulf war when the Israelis imposed a twenty-four hour curfew on the Palestinians and no one could go outside for whatever reason. Once she saw her neighbour, an old man, venture out of his house to purchase milk for his young son. The Israeli soldiers asked no questions but immediately shot him twice, one bullet caught him in the head, the other in his stomach. He died that day because he wanted to buy some milk for his starving baby.

She also remembered her young cousin who was shot in the chest while he was on his way to a friend's house. The bullet that the doctors dug out of him had one inscription, Made in the U.S.

As she watched the drunk homeless man weave a path from one end of the park to the other, Hanada thought, "Why are the Americans doing this to us? Why do they send weapons and ammunition and explosives to the Jews to kill Palestinians when their own people are without jobs and homes? What right have Russian Jews to Palestine? No, it's not millions of American dollars that pay for these hideous crimes the Americans back, but billions! Money is taken from poor Americans to pay for Jewish crimes and murder halfway around the world."

A customer approached the booth where Hanada fried the falafel. The crisp smell was inviting. Business had been good so far. "I'd like some lemonade and a sandwich," ordered the young man.

"Certainly," she said with a weird accent. "That will be one dollar please."

"Say, just who do you represent anyway?" the youth asked.

"We are selling falafel for the Palestinians so that we can raise some money to help pay for medical emergencies."

"Who did you say, Pakistanis?"

"No, she replied firmly, 'I said Palestinians.'"

"Oh, and just who are they?"

"They come from a country called Palestine."

"Where's that? In Russia?"

"Fool!" she almost screamed out loud and then said with control, "No Palestine is a country that is under Jewish occupation in the country now known as Israel!"

"Oh," he answered, seeming to understand it all now.

"Are you a Jew then or something?"

"No I'm not," she answered hopelessly. "I'm a Muslim Palestinian."

"OK," and he walked off, not really seeming to know just who was who and which country was where on the map but at least she had informed him that such a country as Palestine did exist.

A few people did contribute money for the Palestinians. They stuffed dollar bills into an old tin can and then went on with their lives.

Some owners, pulled by their dogs, approached the stand and bought falafel sandwiches. The dogs looked big and healthy to Hanada. She remembered seeing sacks of different brands of dog food piled up in customers' shopping carts in supermarkets. It looked like they spent as much money feeding their dogs as they did their kids if not more. She would always remember when her little brothers and sisters never had enough to eat or even had a safe day to attend school.

One gray-haired lady briskly walked up to the falafel stand, shaking her finger at Hanada in reproachment as she scolded, "The Palestinians and the Jews must learn to live together in peace. Be friends now. Don't keep fighting!"

Hanada smiled a little. She wished this were possible. If only Americans didn't keep helping Israel. If only the U.S. would insist that the Jews withdraw from occupied territory as they had insisted with the Iraqis when they bombed them out of existence. "Ah, but if wishes were horses, then beggars would ride," she said recalling the saying she had learned in school when she was lucky enough to go to school.

She stared at the musicians wearing funny shorts and at some of the audience who by now had consumed several cans of beer. Some kids started dancing to the music on the hot grass in their bare feet. They were crazy, wild and carefree. They were Americans after all and this was their country, the land of the free and the brave. The land of democracy where there was no hunger or poverty and everybody was happy, especially if one happened to be a well fed dog or cat.

Beyond the storm of music, Hanada could hear Palestinian children crying, waiting to break free from the shackles of their oppression. She could hear the wail of mothers whose sons had died in prison and she could hear the moans of Palestinian youth who were held without trial in underground dungeons. A lump caught in her throat and she said to herself, "I will never like Americans. I refuse to be like them. I hate them for their ignorance and for what they are doing to my people. One day this empire too shall crumble. God doesn't sleep or forget!"

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 12

8:30 The Family Man

Grandpa, the house manager, is ill and Jack asks his eldest son to run the house until grandpa gets well.

9:10 Outlaws

Birthday

Starring: Rod Taylor

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Waterloo Bridge

Starring: Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor

A love story between an officer and a ballet dancer during the great war in Europe.

Friday, Sept. 13

8:30 Night Court

Married Alive

Starring: Harry Anderson,

Ellen Foley, John Larroquette and Charles Robinson

9:10 Forever Green

Starring: Pauline Collins and John Alderton

10:00 News In English

10:20 Simon And Simon

Grand Illusion

Saturday, Sept. 14

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

The programme is presented by Steve Skrovan

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Throwaway wives

Sunday, Sept. 15

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Documentary — National Geographic Explorer

A series on what happens behind the scenes. The cam-

eramen who risk their lives to shoot the documentary films.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Hunter

Monday, Sept. 16

8:30 Surgical Spirits

The Folks On The Hill

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Trevor Hudson's legacy

A literary editor is hired to edit the late Trevor Hudson's last book when he discovers that there is literary fraud and threatens to expose it. He is murdered and Jessica investigates.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Over My Dead Body

Max and his beautiful partner are on the track of a professional killer.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Great Balls Of Fire

Balky and Larry volunteer to work for the fire depart-

ment.

9:10 Our House

Like Father, Like Son

Starring: Wilfred Brimley, Deirdre Hall, Shauna Doherty and Chad Allen

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Mind Over Mayhem

Starring: Peter Falk and Jose Ferrer

Wednesday, Sept. 18

8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 Documentary — Bollywood Story

This is a documentary about the Indian film industry which goes back to 1913. It is a well known fact that the Indian movie industry surpasses Hollywood in the number of movies produced annually.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Miniseries

Renseignements généraux Vengeance

## Coffee — in a taster's genes and in his veins

By Doris Frankel  
Reuter

NEW YORK — Steve Colten goes through an elaborate ritual over coffee.

With intense concentration he studies the colour and sniffs the aroma, then he savours the brew, rolls it round his palate like vintage wine — and spits it out.

Mr. Colten and his colleagues test coffee for certification at the world's largest futures and options exchange for Arabica Coffee.

At 35, he is one of only 36 active coffee tasters licensed by the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange.

Every coffee futures contract traded on the exchange calls for the delivery of 37,500 pounds (17,010 kg) of Arabica beans — a type of coffee grown in many parts of the world.

A futures contract is an agreement to make or take delivery of a specified quantity and grade of a commodity at a particular price on a future date. Price is set by vocal dealing on the exchange floor between a buyer and a seller.

But before coffee is actually delivered against a contract, it must be graded for quality and certified.

Mr. Colten spends most of his time working for a coffee importer as a salesman and quality control manager, and coffee runs in his genes as well as his veins. He learned the art of tasting from his father, a retired coffee importer who is chairman of the board of coffee graders at the exchange.

"I still drink three cups of coffee a day for pleasure — and an indeterminable amount for business," Mr. Colten said.

"Almost anyone can learn to taste coffee with the right tutelage. It just takes time," he said.

"Coffee tasting is a craft, just like being taught to be a fine shoemaker or cabinetmaker," said Donald Schoenholt, a coffee historian and writer.

The process begins when samples are submitted to the grading room and a panel of three is called in to test between one and a dozen.

The tools of coffee tasting

have not changed much in over 90 years. In the room are three round tables, stools and hourglass-shaped cuspidors (spittoons). White cups are placed around the edges of the tables.

Beside the wall are two four-cylinder roasters, four big water kettles and an electric grinder. The smell of coffee permeates the room. Hundreds of coffee samples are stacked in boxes on shelves.

"The testers are blind testing, they have no clue as to the identity of the coffee, they only know the coffee's growth — its country of origin," Mr. Colten said.

The beans are poured out and mixed into three pans. "The colour of the beans is compared to an exchange sample which represents the minimum acceptable colour," Mr. Colten said.

The graders spread out the beans on white paper and pick out imperfections such as broken or black ones.

Then they grade the sample, count the imperfections and average the grades awarded by each of the three tasters.

In the cup testing, the coffee beans are roasted and ground. The graders put seven grams (one quarter-ounce) into a cup and the coffee is steep-brewed by pouring boiling water on the grounds, which float to the surface and form a shell.

"Then the grader takes a spoon, breaks the shell and sniffs the bouquet and aroma of the coffee," Mr. Colten said.

As the coffee cools, the grounds dissolve in the water. The grader sips a spoonful and spits it out into the cuspidor. "There is no reason to swallow the coffee. The palate tells you everything about the coffee," Mr. Colten said.

The grader usually tastes the coffee two or three times as it cools down.

"He is looking for a clean cup of coffee which is not tainted by imperfections such as an earthy, fermented, sour or generally any kind of unpleasant taste," Mr. Colten said.

What makes the perfect cup of coffee? Says Mr. Colten: "There is no perfect cup. It is the one you like."

B.C.

SOME OF YOUR PLAYERS SEEM TO PREFER AN ALUMINUM BAT OVER A WOODEN ONE.



I'M NOT SURPRISED. THEY PROBABLY THINK IT'S A TALL BEER CAN.



## Japanese Hamlet to boost culture links with Britain

By Tsukasa Maekawa  
Reuters

LONDON — London playgoers won't know what hit them. The Japanese are bringing Shakespeare's Hamlet to England — Kabuki-style.

Kabuki evolved around 1600, just when Shakespeare was writing his blank verse tragedy about a prince of Denmark who filled the stage with corpses.

The Japanese art form tells the story with dance, acrobatics and mime. Hamlet and his doomed bride-to-be, Ophelia, will be played by the same male actor.

The Kabuki Hamlet will be part of the Japan Festival, being opened in London on Sept. 16 by British heir to the throne Prince Charles and by Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan.

By the time it ends early next year, it will have been the biggest celebration of another nation's culture ever held in Britain.

"It's almost like putting a human face on Japan" said festival director David Barrie.

"People do not really know that Japan is a very much of a living culture with a great deal of artistic, creative activities going on."

Mr. Barrie said foreigners saw a stereotype Japan — either a nation of Geisha girls, Mouri Foji and cherry blossom or "hardworking salary men who are driving to make Japan a greater economic power."

The festival will offer more than 350 events including sumo wrestling and traditional Kabuki and Noh Drama, horseback archery, music and painting.

Some 67 top Rikishi (wrestlers) will compete in a five-day grand sumo tournament in London — the first official sumo contest to be held outside Japan in 1,500 years.

There will also be a Kabuki version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Jesus Christ Superstar, and a puppet version of Shakespeare's The Tempest.

A contemporary Japanese play adapted for British actors, Tango At The End Of Winter, will be directed by Yukio Ninagwa who staged Macbeth and Medea at the National Theatre in 1987.

The mounted Samurai archers will perform in London's Hyde Park. Other festival features will be a jazz concert by Japanese alto saxophonist Sadao Watanabe, Western classical music conducted by Boston Philharmonic Music director Seiji Ozawa and more than 50 films including Akira Kurosawa's latest Rhapsody In August.

The festival was planned to coincide with the centenary of the Japan Society which was founded to promote the study and understanding of Japan in Britain.

In part, it also reflects Britain's position as the favourite choice of Japanese firms for investment in Europe.

Japanese direct investment in Britain accounts for about 30 per cent of all of its investment in Europe. About 200 Japanese firms manufacture in Britain.

Some \$24 million has been raised to finance the festival through more than 300 Japanese and 100 British companies, business groups and government organisations.

## Fuerstenberg collection - a mixture of grace, beauty and romanticism

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The colours were spectacular, the fabrics were rich, the styles were royal and the fashion show was a hit. The exquisite designs of Prince Egon Von Fuerstenberg reflected a sense of romanticism, grace and elegant beauty seen in his haute couture autumn-winter 91/92 collection.

The fashion show, held at the Amman Marriott Hotel,

was the first of its kind in Jordan. It featured a range of day dresses, tailors, evening and cocktail dresses. It also included a romantic bridal gown.

"I like a feminine woman; even if she works. I like her to be sexy," Prince Fuerstenberg said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "I like to show off the body, that is why most of my designs are waisted and near to the body."

The collection, displayed

at the fashion show, had a wonderful and imaginative combination of colours, fabrics and sequences. For day wear, the designs were mostly two piece tailors or simple short dresses covered entirely with a tight fitting jacket. The fabrics used mostly were wool, organdy and chiffon.

The simplicity of the designs delighted the attendants. The colour sequels were breathtaking, especially the combination of purple, red and brown. Some tailors and day dresses, had silver and gold prints on them, giving the outfit a look of elegance and beauty.

As for the evening dresses, the fabric often used was royal velvet. Long night fitting burgundy, army green, and black velvet dresses, with short sequined jackets draped the bodies of the models. Some evening dresses were short, with either pearl embroideries or a mixture of pink and salmon coloured sequins reflecting yet another aspect of the austere haute couture designs of Prince Fuerstenberg.

"I did not bring all my collection to Amman," the 45-year-old Swiss-born designer, a member of the Austrian Royal Family, said. "But what I brought is very conservative and elegant."

Prince Fuerstenberg said he is influenced by his 21-year-old daughter when he designs for the younger people. "I use a lot more colours like shocking pink, red, salmon and so on, and I also use different fabrics especially stretch fabrics," he said.

Prior to designing any collection, Prince Fuerstenberg said he thinks of the colours and fabrics that would go into

the making. Then he meets with the manufacturers and relays his wishes to them; after all the arrangements are made he starts his designs.

"I was very enthusiastic about coming to Jordan, and I hope people like my designs," Prince Fuerstenberg said before the start of the show.

Eva Hunter, a former model who organises fashion shows around the world, expressed delight at being in Jordan. "It's fantastic to go to far away places. I think it's fabulous," Hunter said.

"I was very disappointed about not being able to go down to Petra for a fashion shoot. I always wanted to visit it," the Prince said, referring to a trip he was promised would take place earlier in the day of the fashion show.

According to informed sources, the Amman Marriott Hotel had requested from the Ministry of Tourism an army helicopter to transport the models and photographers to and from Petra. The hotel explained that some of the pictures would appear in major fashion magazines including Vogue, Bazaar and Harpers. Unfortunately the request was later denied.

"I think people liked the fashion show and I hope in the future we will be able to do something like that again," Carole Hanna, the main organiser of the show at the Marriott Hotel told the Jordan Times. "It was hard work, but I believe it was worth it."

Taking part in the fashion show were four local models who, according to Prince Fuerstenberg, "were very impressive."



Afternoon tailors made of wool



A long evening dress



A long evening dress with a short sequined jacket

## A meeting of century's greatest stars

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — A new play in London's West End is uniting two of the century's greatest and most controversial female performers — the American dancer Isadora Duncan and the English actress Vanessa Redgrave.

For the second time, the powerful, controversial Redgrave is portraying the rebellious, icon-smashing dancer, whom she sees as the mother of modern dance, an originator of glances 50 years ahead of her time, and a feminist from an era when such atti-

tudes were far from popular. While classical ballet imposed rigid sets of movements, she opted for more natural rhythms and based her dancing on ancient Greece's traditions giving complete freedom of movement to the interpreter. At the age of 21 she left the United States to seek recognition abroad, sailing with little money on a cattle boat bound for England. There she was invited to dance at private receptions by the most famous hostesses and rapidly gained fame throughout the European continent.

Redgrave first played Isadora in a 1969 film directed by Karel Reisz, which attempted to show every thread of the dancer's stormy life but diluted the appeal of the movie. Duncan's unorthodox approach to interpretive dancing was equalled by her rebellious and tragic personal life. Her two children, fathered by two different lovers, drowned in Paris in 1913 when the car in which they were riding rolled into the Seine. She herself died in a bizarre accident in 1927, at age 50. Her scarf became caught in a rear wheel of her car and strangled her.

Redgrave hopes that the new stage play by Martin Sherman, called When She Danced, will also be filmed. Instead of the broad-brush treatment, though, this account of Duncan's life will concentrate on 1923, when Isadora was married to the Russian dissident poet Sergei Esenin. Although Duncan didn't believe in marriage, she finally put her scruples behind her and married Esenin, 17 years her junior, in 1922 so that she could take him on a tour of the United States. She had met the poet and songwriter in 1921 during a trip to the Soviet Union to establish a dance school. At the time Esenin enjoyed an enormous reputation, being hailed as "the voice of the people" by the revolutionary intelligentsia of Lenin's time.

Along with other American stars like Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. Duncan was attracted to the Russian Revolution in its most idealistic aspects, Redgrave explained. "There is no doubt that Isadora was extremely naive in her idealism. She spoke of wanting to remake the world through dance. Having failed to establish the school of dance

she wanted in the West, it was only natural that she responded to the help that the fledgling Soviet Union offered her."

"The burst of warmth between the Soviet and the American peoples did not last long," Redgrave continued. "Within a year or two old antagonisms surfaced, on both sides. There was absolutely no cynicism in Isadora, however. She was one of those pioneering Americans who turned their backs on Philistine America to rediscover Europe." Isadora did return to the United States with Esenin, but at a time when anti-Bolshevism was at its height. When she introduced him during a concert at Symphony Hall, in Boston, the audience shouted insults at her. She returned the abuse, left the stage and vowed never to return to her native country.

The next few years were spent in Europe. Esenin returned to the Soviet Union and was reported to have committed suicide in 1925. But during a recent visit to Moscow Redgrave found growing evidence that Sergei may have been killed by the GPU, the forerunner of the KGB. During the Stalin regime the poet's works were banned as decadent. In recent years his popularity has grown again, to the extent that a half-million copies of his poetry have been published. Says Redgrave: "Esenin is one of the century's great poets, and he is being regarded in the Soviet Union today as right up there, rated even with Pushkin."

"Many in Moscow accepted the story that he died of suicide," the actress explained. "But when we were there looking for our Sergei, we could see what a huge cult had built up to

honour him and his works."

Redgrave has formed a particularly close link to playwright Martin Sherman. A 52-year-old American who took 20 years to get established, he is today the darling of many stars. Maureen Lipman played in his Messiah. Meryl Streep read from his Cracks at a theatre conference. Richard Gere and Ian McKellen have both starred in his best-known play, Bent, which concerns homosexual prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp.

Most unusual about the often comical, frequently touching drama When She Danced is that Sherman uses many languages to portray the turbulent, cosmopolitan Paris. Sergei, played by Moscow star Oleg Menshikov, speaks only Russian. Other characters speak in French, Italian, Greek and Swedish. Sherman made the languages alien "so that we hear the world as Isadora did, with all its confusions." His play, then, is a study in the frustrations of communication, the clashing of artistic egos and the hunger of these rootless, questing wanderers for a home.

Finding "their Sergei" was an adventure for Redgrave, Sherman, producer Robert Fox and director Robert Allan Ackerman. [Redgrave, a strong anti-Stalinist, but equally strong leftist, has made herself much at home in Mr. Gorbachev's new Soviet Union in recent years. She and her sister Lynn starred in Chekhov's Three Sisters in London, and she helped bring the prominent Georgian director Robert Strus to the West.

Despite all their contacts, the four talent scouts couldn't find the right Sergei, even after countless auditions. Finally, on a tip, they went to

see an independent production of Albert Camus' play, Caligula. In a central role was 30-year-old film, TV and stage actor Oleg Menshikov. The quartet had finally found "Sergei." Fortunately, he was available to travel at this point in a busy career.

A recent meeting with Redgrave offered insight into one of the world's greatest actresses. Her relations with the world's press have not always been comfortable. She is so determined to protect herself from either personal attacks or outcries against her politics that she often requires written assurances from reporters and their editors that neither personal nor political matters will be dealt with.

If you meet Redgrave halfway on her desire to be treated like an independent artist, you could not find a more gracious person in British theatre. She patiently offers background on difficult contexts, she spells out foreign names and she looks after the comforts of her interviewer. But should you be from one of those London mass tabloid papers, looking for gossip about her love life or her political activism, you will undoubtedly get a taste of the flint and toughness in her personality.

In October the London publisher Hutchinson will be launching the 54-year-old actress's autobiography, and a storm can be forecast. Redgrave writes of her distinguished acting family, led by her father, the actor Sir Michael Redgrave, and her mother, actress Rachel Kempson. She writes of her sister, Lynn, who has built a totally new life for herself as a popular actress on American TV and of her brother Corin, and Vanessa's two gla-



For the second time in her career, Vanessa Redgrave is playing the part of the pioneer of modern dance, Isadora Duncan. Redgrave, here with co-star Oleg Menshikov of Soviet Union, appears in a London play entitled When She Danced.

morous daughters, Joely and Natasha Richardson from her marriage to director Tony Richardson.

Those looking for gossip will read little about her past affairs with such actors as Timothy Dalton, the star of the latest James Bond series. But when it comes to her politics — her espousal of unpopular causes, the leftist parties and her passionate concern over Palestinians — Redgrave spares no detail. The book will stir up the pot again, and bring us back to where Time Magazine recently found her after a failed American tour: "Without doubt a great actress, whose manner and personal prefer-

ences many in her audiences find abrasive and annoying." Redgrave's admiration for Isadora Duncan is not without restrictions, and she can see where the dancer and rebel often went wrong. But "what a sense of adventure she had!" Redgrave exclaimed. "She revolutionised the whole of dance. She pioneered in dance what Stanislavski was doing in theatre. When you read about Isadora's unique life, you can't help but feel close to her." Thanks to Redgrave and playwright Sherman, the magic and excitement surrounding Isadora and Sergei can be enjoyed again by the public — World News Link.



## Men who stop heart disease programme run higher risk of dying

By Stanley D. Miller  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Men who started and then stopped a heart-disease prevention programme ran a higher risk of death than those who never underwent the regimen, scientists said Wednesday. But doctors cautioned against avoiding such programmes.

"If there's a message here, it's 'don't stop,' not 'don't start,'" said Dr. Stuart Rich, chief of cardiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

A report on the study appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study by researchers in Finland found that prevention programmes worked while they continued. But after treatment stopped, the participants were more at risk than the men who never were treated.

Researchers studied 1,222 healthy volunteers from among 3,490 male business executives. The volunteers had at least one of the risk factors for heart disease. Those factors include heredity, smoking, drinking, eating high-fat and high-cholesterol foods, being overweight and not exercising enough.

The men were split into two groups. One was treated for five years with a programme that included diet, exercise, drugs and counseling against smoking and drinking. The other group received no treatment.

Risk factors declined for the treated group during the

five-year trial, wrote Dr. Timo E. Strandberg of the University of Helsinki. But the differences between the groups had levelled off by 1985, five years after the trial ended.

By the end of 1989, 5.6 per cent of the treated group had died from heart disease compared with 2.3 per cent of the untreated group.

And 10.9 per cent of the treated group had died from all causes compared with 7.5 per cent of the untreated group.

"No one should believe that this study tells people that you shouldn't watch what you eat, how much you exercise, common sense things like that," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the Public Citizen Health Research Group in Washington. "Don't smoke. Exercise.

Lose weight if you're overweight. Eat a diet that's lower in cholesterol and animal fat. All that isn't altered one whit by this study."

Dr. Strandberg and his team of researchers could not explain the findings.

"The results may be peculiar to this highly selective population of middle-aged men," he wrote.

Dr. Oglesby Paul, emeritus professor of medicine at Harvard University Medical School, agreed there is no scientifically convincing explanation.

"But publication of such unusual results... often provokes enlightening discussion and keeps a scientific field from becoming complacent," he wrote in an editorial accompanying the article.

## Antibody keeps repaired arteries clear in rat study

By Paul Reecer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Up to 40 per cent of operations to open clogged arteries fail when the vessels develop new blockage. Now a laboratory study with rats shows that an antibody may prevent this problem, offering new hope for human heart disease patients.

Researchers at the University of Washington report that they have used an antibody extracted from goats to keep arteries clear in rats that underwent a procedure called angioplasty, an operation commonly used in human heart disease to open up blocked vessels.

A report on the research is to be published Friday in the

journal *Science*.

Dr. Russell Ross, principal scientist in the study, said the research is based on the theory that a natural substance called platelet-derived growth factor, or PDGF, plays a role in new blockages that develop inside repaired arteries.

The blockages are a common problem in the treatment of heart patients.

About a half million Americans annually receive operations to open arteries that have narrowed due to cardiovascular disease. These operations include bypasses, in which vessels are implanted to permit blood to flow around a blockage, and angioplasties, in which a small balloon is threaded into

blocked artery and then inflated to force the vessel open.

However, said Dr. Ross, while the operations expand arteries to permit unrestricted flow of blood, the procedures also injure the vessel walls. When the body repairs the injury, that causes cells to multiply or gather at the site, and this process eventually can cause a new blockage.

"That means the procedure that was meant to dilate the artery fails because it goes back to where it was before or gets even worse," he said.

Earlier studies had suggested that PDGF, which the body produces to heal wounds, may play a role in creating the blockages.

To test this theory, Dr. Ross and his team first needed an antibody against PDGF. They obtained this substance by injecting human PDGF into goats. The goats' immune systems responded by producing an antibody which neutralises the action of PDGF.

The scientists then performed angioplasty procedures on 39 rats.

"We used a balloon catheter, the same kind of instrument that is used in patients, except it was much smaller since a rat is small," said Dr. Ross. The balloon was inflated in a neck artery of the rats, causing damage to the vessels, just as occurs in human angioplasty.

In half of the rats, the researchers injected doses of

the PDGF antibody, the other rats, used as a controls, received another goat antibody.

The result, said Dr. Ross, is that 41 per cent of the rats which received the anti-PDGF substance did not develop blocked arteries at the angioplasty site. Arteries in the rats that did not get the anti-PDGF thickened and narrowed, he said.

Dr. Claude Lenfant, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, said the study was important because it is the first "to demonstrate in an animal model the key role of PDGF in the thickening of artery walls which occurs after bypass surgery and angio-

plasty." The study, he said, "has given us hope" that new artery blockages could be prevented in humans treated for narrowed or clogged arteries.

Asked if he thought the technique could be used to help human heart patients, Dr. Ross said, "If it can be demonstrated that PDGF plays a major role in this process in humans, the answer would be yes."

First, thought, he said, researchers need to prove definitely that PDGF is responsible for causing arteries to narrow or close.

Dr. Ross said it also will take years of research, first on rabbits and then primates, before the PDGF antibody could be tested on humans.

## Iron deficiency linked to poor childhood development

BOSTON (AP) — Youngsters who were anemic as infants score lower than usual on mental and coordination tests when they enter school, even though their iron deficiency has been corrected, according to a study.

The research, conducted in Costa Rica, confirms other recent studies showing a link between childhood anemia and developmental problems.

Iron-deficiency anemia is extremely common, affecting an estimated one-quarter of babies around the world. The latest work was based

on 163 children who were tested for iron deficiency as infants and treated, if necessary. When checked again five years later, "children who had moderately severe iron-deficiency anemia as infants... had lower scores on tests of mental and motor functioning at school entry

than the rest of the children."

The study was directed by Dr. Betsy Loozoff of Rainbow Babies and Children's hospital in Cleveland and published in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Even though the research suggests a link, it does not prove that the youngsters' slow development was caused by lack of iron. The anemic babies tended to be smaller at birth, were weaned from breast-feeding earlier and came from less stimulating home environments.

These and other factors, such as additional nutritional deficiencies, could have played a part in their poor test results.

Nevertheless, the researchers said that iron deficiency in infancy "may serve as a convenient marker" for other harder to identify problems that contribute to lagging development.

## Study linking brain to sexual orientation draws mixed reaction

By Dennis Georgatos  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A study suggesting biology may be a determining factor in male homosexuality has met with skepticism, resentment and curiosity in the gay community.

Some feared the research may somehow be used

against them.

Others expressed hope the groundbreaking research by neurologist Dr. Simon LeVay could lead to greater societal understanding and acceptance of homosexuals.

Dr. LeVay, a researcher at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, examined brains from 41 cadavers, including 19

homosexual men.

He found that a cluster of cells in the Hypothalamus — a marble-sized part of the brain regulating such functions as appetite, body temperature and sexual behavior — was much smaller in gay men than their heterosexual counterparts.

The study, published Friday in the journal *Science*, did not include a consideration of lesbianism.

"People already think we're ill. This is all they need to jump on a bandwagon and say we have some kind of brain deformity," said Gene Riendel, 43, a volunteer office worker at Concord's Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, which serves a predominantly gay congregation of 200.

"To me, it's bogus," Mr. Riendel said. "Judge me for myself, not for my sexuality, not for the size of my brain

stem core. I feel that my lifestyle is the way I was created by my maker. This is the way God made me. I'm satisfied and happy with it. Those who aren't that's their issue to deal with."

San Francisco gay activist Paul Boneberg, who estimated the city has 80,000 gay people among its 724,000 population, viewed the research "with the greatest skepticism" because it used such a small sampling.

"There's been speculation for ages on what causes people being gay," said Mr. Boneberg, executive director of Mobilisation Against AIDS. "The theories come, the theories go. There really is no practical impact."

But the research does lend support to what many gays have been saying — that they were born with their sexual orientation and that it was not a result of upbringing, or a "sinful" choice as argued by

some Christian groups.

"It's an important study. It has to be replicated and expanded," said Dr. Richard Green, a psychiatrist and lawyer at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. Green said there could be wide-ranging cultural and legal ramifications if Dr. LeVay's preliminary findings are verified.

"From a legal standpoint... groups that are stigmatised and discriminated against receive special protections, if, among other things the trait for which they're stigmatised is immutable, or unchangeable," Dr. Green said. "So if it can be demonstrated that sexual orientation is brain-determined, then legal protections for homosexuals under anti-discrimination statutes could increase."

He also said condemnations of gays by some religious groups might ease "if homosexuality turned out to

be a brain variation that is not much different from left-handedness."

Some gay activists said they were concerned the research could open the door to some sort of prenatal genetic tinkering to fix an "abnormality."

"It's open to wide interpretation, both good and bad," said Dr. Robert Scott, vice president of Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, a group that supports and promotes issues related to gay and lesbian health.

"A part of it combats that sense among people who aren't informed that (homosexuality) is somehow a choice rather than an innate part of the person," he said.

"But when something like this hits us out of the blue, it's also subject to a lot of misinterpretation. This... could be construed as showing there is a some kind of abnormality," Dr. Scott said.

## Rising rate of sterilisation creates controversy

By Ken Silverstein  
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — A dramatic increase in illegal sterilisations has led to congressional investigations and charges of discrimination against poor women.

It is occurring against a backdrop of poverty, ignorance and opposition by the Roman Catholic Church to artificial birth control. Nine out of 10 Brazilians identify themselves as Catholics.

"Sterilisation is the easiest" birth control method "in a country like ours because there is no preparation or orientation," said Lilibeth Ferreira, a census bureau researcher.

"Sterilisation is not birth control, but a form of violence," said Congresswoman Lucia Souto. "We don't want Brazilian women to have a dozen children apiece, but we do want them to have options."

Most sterilisations are voluntary, but many experts say poor women don't know any other way to avoid pregnancy. Federally sponsored family planning is practically non-existent in this predominantly Catholic nation of 150 million.

Brazilian law forbids sterilisation except in life-threatening situations. Doctors

who perform the operation can be punished with up to eight years in prison, but the practice is routine, even in public hospitals.

The law is widely ignored in the face of demand for sterilisations. Criticism of the practice and calls for better enforcement are very new, and so far have come only from small groups.

Twenty-eight per cent of Brazilian women of child-bearing age have been sterilised, according to a survey by the Institute for the Development of Resources in Washington. Only the Dominican Republic and El Salvador have higher rates.

The percentage of sterilised women in France is 5 per cent, and in Sweden only 2 per cent.

A 1987 census bureau survey showed sterilisation was by far the leading method of birth control among Brazilian women, especially the poor. The most common form is tubal ligation, in which the fallopian tubes are tied to prevent pregnancy.

Some officials of local governments promote sterilisation. Several towns in Parana, a southern state, offer free tubal ligations for poor women with more than five children.

Chagas Alves, a state legis-

lator and gynecologist in the northeastern city of Cascavel, has admitted personally sterilising 750 lower-class women in 15 years.

In Rio, a state commission found many women based decisions to be sterilised on misleading information from doctors.

"Many women didn't have any idea what had happened to their bodies," said Sara Costa of the National School for Public Health.

"They thought they could have children after the operation, without knowing the procedure is practically irreversible."

Under military rule in 1964-85, the government said family planning belonged in the "intimacy of the home." In the 1970s, the generals encouraged big families in order to populate a nation larger than the contiguous United States.

In 1987, a government family planning programme encountered opposition from church officials who claimed birth control would lead directly to abortion, divorce and promiscuity. The programme, never generously financed, quietly died.

There is widespread ignorance of birth-control methods. "I've heard con-

doms are used to prevent AIDS, but not to avoid having children," said a shantytown resident who was trying to raise money for a tubal ligation.

Most contraceptive methods are too expensive in Brazil, where half the workers earn less than \$120 a month.

"Many women have important reasons for not wanting to have children, but have no knowledge about other methods of birth control or no means of having them."

"Therefore, they seek the most radical solution," said Audnes Tenorio of the Civil Society of Family Welfare, a private health organisation.

He said poor families often choose sterilisation because they cannot afford more children.

"Most poor women have to work full-time and cannot pay for day care," Mr. Tenorio said. "What are they supposed to do with their kids?"

Many experts dispute the common belief that fewer children mean less poverty. They note the average number of children per Brazilian family fell from 5.8 in 1970 to 3.3 in 1990, a period of general economic decline.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ANCHORS AWEIGH  
By Craig Schwartz

ACROSS

- 1 Habit
- 2 — powers
- 3 Large rolls of bits
- 4 Overlooking
- 5 — (TV show)
- 6 Toss around
- 7 — mixer
- 8 Move quickly
- 9 Arise to anger
- 10 Warm
- 11 Envy
- 12 Envy
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- 1 Mural's place
- 2 Butters
- 3 Extremely small
- 4 Dance
- 5 — Want for
- 6 Christmas
- 7 Make unkept
- 8 Quiver
- 9 Dry stream bed
- 10 Thick and Laid
- 11 In a snapper may
- 12 Leave port
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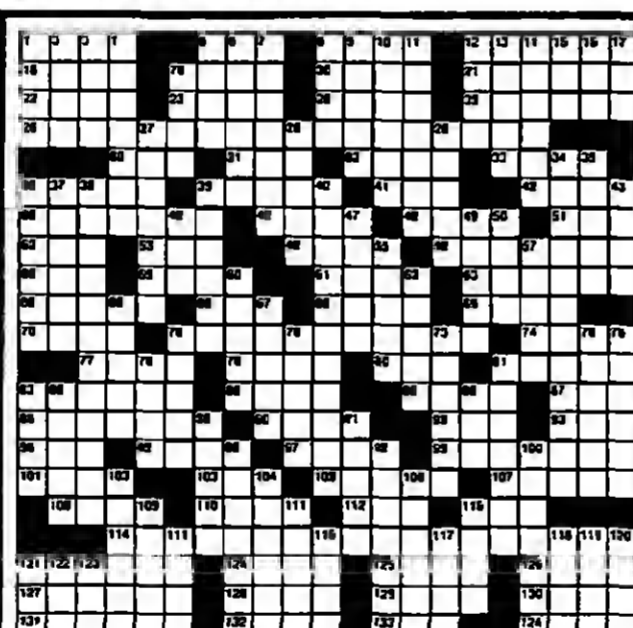
Diagram: 17 X 17, By Martha J. De Wit

ACROSS

- 1 Jump on one foot
- 2 Break as a
- 3 Actor Claude
- 4 11 Disinter
- 5 Before the usual
- 6 Yoko —
- 7 All-male bash
- 8 Ethnastic
- 9 Month
- 10 Fix a manuscript
- 11 Prologist
- 12 Fire
- 13 Night before a
- 14 Kitchen utensil
- 15 Port of oil
- 16 Unquint
- 17 Blance off
- 18 Soy
- 19 Points
- 20 Religious
- 21 Ceremony
- 22 Foray
- 23 Sordid
- 24 Weed implement
- 25 Late
- 26 Break as a
- 27 Smokey
- 28 Years on earth
- 29 Depend
- 30 — out (make do)
- 31 Air
- 32 Officeholders
- 33 Delire
- 34 Can near
- 35 —
- 36 Equipment
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- 38 19th
- 39 19th
- 40 19th
- 41 19th
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Wacky lawyer, asked if he passed the bar, replied briefly. "Not if the place was open."
2. Cute insurance salesperson sells a two million dollar policy to her boy friend who names his pet poodle as beneficiary.
3. This fair new wax was made in and exported from Poland: "Polish polka."
4. Unquiet quaking bees once gab 'n' gossip places.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JC GIARL TXPVVRH FVNC QIRCZ  
EAQBVVRH XRL ZI TCPW ILL VR GBVHKY.  
JC GBVJ IGG VR NVLLXV XRL PCFAPRCL  
KINC PKC EPTVIAZ RVHKE — By Gordon Miller
2. ZV COZY QUIAT RKRIN OLDEY TRYIKRY  
CU OEKR E OEKRV VU OECCRI OUG  
OLDJAR UI TZYDEA ZC DEN JR.

—By Eugene T. Maleska

## King: Jordan on democratic path

(Continued from page 4)

tion of other Arab states in the region in the peace process with enthusiasm and appreciation, since the problem has always had an obvious regional dimension. What we must achieve is a comprehensive, honourable, just and lasting peace and regional reconciliation. Peace that would bring together the children of Abraham to live as they did through the greater part of their common history. That Jerusalem may finally come to represent the essence of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions — to whom Jerusalem equally belongs and in whose hearts and souls it occupies an unequalled position.

Finally, what an opportunity peace would present for all concerned, to divert their energies and resources away from the abyss of war and devastation, towards our urgent need to work together to meet the requirements of life itself for present and future generations. I hope that the coming period will witness the rapid elimination of the barriers of suspicion, fear, despair and hate — the ingredients on which extremism feeds and thrives. We are committed to exerting our maximal efforts: that a new dawn may soon break over the Palestinians living on their beloved soil, their grievances addressed, their human rights restored everywhere, and their long suffering ended. Israelis and Arabs living in peace, in the region where the Almighty God sent his divine messages to Jews, Christians and Muslims, all enjoying the real security finally founded on peace.

## Arafat reaffirms PLO's right

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat said that the PLO adheres to a five-point agreement that was concluded with the U.S. before the Gulf war.

"We have agreed on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and we are pursuing the contacts with the Americans through Jordan, Egypt, and Syria because these are essential partners in the peace process," he said.

"The Americans had imagined that the Gulf war would eliminate the Palestinian question," he said. "They can reach a settlement without the Palestinians but they can never achieve a genuine peace in the region," Mr. Arafat noted.

Mr. Arafat said disarming Palestinian fighters in Lebanon had made Palestinian camps in Lebanon threatened by the prospect of massacres as had happened in Sabra and Shatila camps in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon. "We had agreed to the Lebanese government's demands because we had only two options: Either to make our people suffer more than they can or create a new Arab-Arab massacre," he said.

"We were anxious to ensure an active Lebanese government and thus we decided to present our weapons as a gift to the army to facilitate the mission of the gov-

justice and the recognition by all of their respective rights and duty to protect peace for ever more.

## Distinguished Members of Parliament

I wish to express the pride which I share with the people of Jordan in our growing friendship, our gratitude for the support and understanding of your respected governments and the peoples of the European Community. We are proud of our friends in Europe and the world who have understood or sought to understand what Jordan has always stood for and struggled to achieve — friendship that stands the test of times, friendship which is based on mutual respect, is truly the worthiest of all.

It is now well into the thirty ninth year since I assumed my constitutional responsibilities, and the honour of serving my people. Throughout these years I have feared none but God to whom I humbly pray that if I do not live to see the day when I could experience the real pride and joy of addressing a Pan-Arab Parliament — modelled on this European Parliament — representing the peoples and governments of a similarly constructed Arab community, that before long it will be the privilege of another to experience such a proud moment. I shall continue my relentless endeavours to realise such a long cherished dream for as long as I live.

I thank you for your many kindnesses. I thank you for the privilege and pleasure of being with you today.

## Germany ready to use its clout

(Continued from page 1)

the returnees and the international aid for Israel as well as the Jewish state's demand for international assistance to settle Soviet Jewish emigres and under the disparity between the level of assistance.

Mr. Spranger said the water problems of Jordan were another issue he covered during his discussions with the Crown Prince. He said Germany understood the issues at stake and attached great importance to efforts to solve the problem.

"I share the opinion of the Crown Prince that water is an existential question now and in the future," Mr. Spranger said. "We will grant our assistance to overcome the water problem, and this will always be Germany's priority."

Mr. Spranger met on Wednesday with Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, who expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Germany for its continued finan-

cial, economic and technical assistance to the Kingdom, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

In remarks carried by Petra, Dr. Fariz said that Germany's assistance to Jordan over the past three decades was instrumental in achieving many developmental projects in the Kingdom.

Dr. Fariz also said that the two sides signed minutes providing for technical and financial cooperation, which included the allocation of 64 million Deutsche marks (JD 25.65 million) to expand and improve the Khirbet Al Samra waste-water treatment plant and finance other irrigation projects in the northern Jordan Valley region.

Mr. Spranger, who is scheduled to meet some of the returnees from the Gulf, may also have an opportunity to meet with King Hussein who is expected to return from his trip in Europe Thursday.

## Jordan, PLO end 2 days of talks

(Continued from page 1)

"We shall resist any attempts to keep the Palestine Liberation Organisation away from the political battle," Salim Za'atoun, deputy speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), told Reuters.

The PNC is due to meet in Algiers on Sept. 23 to decide whether Palestinians should attend the peace conference.

"I am against anyone who says the PLO should not go to the conference to defend the Palestinian cause in all its aspects," added Mr. Za'atoun, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah.

Mr. Za'atoun said reconciliation talks between Mr. Arafat and four dissident PLO factions based in Syria would take place in Libya next week. He will try to woo them into attending the PNC talks as part of unity efforts.

The four, grouped under the National Salvation Front, are against peace talks with Israel and have often condemned Mr. Arafat for his political efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The PLO asked the United Nations Tuesday to help enable members of the PNC who live in the Israeli-occupied territories to take part in the council meeting in Algiers.

The charge of affairs of the PLO U.N. observer mission, Riyad Mansour, in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, asked the U.N. chief "to facilitate the departure from and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, of all members of the PNC in those territories so that they will be able to attend the meeting of the council."

He did not say how many of the PNC's members live in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

In Tunis, a PLO source said the PNC may consider expelling the government.

## Egypt freezes visa curbs on Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

President Mubarak reaffirmed the importance of conducting speedy consultations among Arab experts and ministers so that a collective Arab stand can be adopted before the conference, Dr. Ensour said.

Mr. Musa said that President Mubarak "stressed the importance of coordinating the stands of Egypt and Jordan" in preparation for the peace conference scheduled for the coming month.

The Egyptian minister who described Dr. Ensour meeting with the president as important, said

that Cairo was attaching great importance to inter-Arab cooperation and coordination at this stage.

The Egyptian step to impose visa requirements was originally supposed to be implemented last Thursday, but was postponed until Sept. 12.

Before going to Cairo to attend the Arab League Council meeting, Dr. Ensour said that Jordan would not take a retaliatory measure, noting that at least 150,000 Egyptian nationals are currently working in Jordan. He said that the Egyptians are being accorded treatment on equal footing with Jordanians.

## Jewish settler population will double by 1992

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is building new homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at an accelerated pace, and the number of Jewish settlers will nearly double by the end of 1992, a liberal lawmaker said Wednesday.

Legislator Dedi Zucker also said in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the mastermind of the settlement drive, is doctoring the figures, apparently to avoid public controversy.

Mr. Zucker warned that the settlements would harm Israel's chances of obtaining \$10 billion in loan guarantees it has requested from the United States to help absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"The settlements are the sin and the loan guarantees are the punishment," Mr. Zucker told the Associated Press.

President George Bush has asked Congress to delay consideration of the guarantees until a Middle East peace conference gets off the ground in October.

"I am deeply concerned that it we address Israeli absorption guarantees now — on the eve of the conference — we could divert attention and momentum from our efforts to get the parties together," Mr. Bush wrote in a letter to congressional leaders.

Mr. Bush reportedly made the decision to hold off on the guarantees after receiving detailed reports about the dramatic increase in settlement construction. He has repeatedly demanded that construction stop as a conciliatory gesture to the Arabs.

Mr. Shamir was asked about the speed-up in construction in the occupied territories Wednesday and told reporters: "I don't check the figures every month or two. There is a building momentum around the country in all regions. The building continues, and I hope it will continue."

Mr. Shamir has said in the past that Israel needs to keep the

territories for "security" and for population growth.

Palestinians fear the settlement drive will sabotage their goal of creating an independent homeland in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Zucker said there were 19,000 housing starts in the occupied territories in 1991, and that at least 6,200 housing units are planned for 1992, for a total of more than 25,000 units by the end of 1992.

That would bring at least 90,000 more settlers to the occupied territories, Mr. Zucker said. About 100,000 settlers live there now.

Just 2,100 new units were started in 1990, according to leftist activists.

Mr. Zucker, a member of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement, said the figures were based on housing ministry documents and recent interviews with settlers and contractors.

The legislator said the 1991 figures were three times as high as those given by Mr. Sharon, who said in March he would build 6,800 units in the occupied territories this year.

Mr. Zucker said Mr. Sharon was grossly underreporting construction by excluding large settlements with thousands of units around occupied Jerusalem from his reports.

Mr. Sharon also has started building three new settlements without clearance by the government by arguing that they are expansions of existing settlements and do not need special permits, Mr. Zucker said.

Housing ministry spokesman Shaya Segal said in a written statement that "we are not in the habit of responding to nonsense when its only objective is to cause trouble for Israel in its political struggle and its struggle to absorb immigrants."

The statement did not respond to Mr. Zucker's statistics.

## Israel releases 51 Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

"Israel believes and hopes this humanitarian gesture will help the secretary-general forge a solution to the Western hostages," the Israeli defence ministry said in a statement.

"Israel is closely following the secretary-general and his aides... and gives him complete faith and expects further progress soon."

Lebanese groups held up to 10 Westerners. They freed an American and a Briton a month ago but Israeli resisted demands that it make the next move, pressing for information about seven of its own missing servicemen.

The defence ministry said Wednesday it had been told that private Rachamim Alsheikh was dead. He was ambushed in February 1986 while on patrol in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The defence ministry said it had also received information on British-born Yossi Fink who was with Alsheikh, but it could not say with certainty whether he was dead or alive.

Of the other missing Israelis at least one, downed air force navigator Ron Arad, is thought to be alive.

Israel said it had asked its client militia the South Lebanon Army (SLA) to release 51 prisoners from Khiam, six kilometres north of the Israeli border.

SLA sources said these included five women. Twenty-two of the prisoners were from inside

the "security zone."

The bodies of the nine fighters were brought in pine coffins by four Israeli army command cars to Ras Al Naqura.

The coffins, each bearing a picture and written details of the body inside, were handed over to the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross.

Security sources said they would then be passed on to Hizbollah at Hamra, north of the "security zone."

The remains were brought from a hillside grave yard near a kibbutz in northern Israel where to up 225 Arabs killed in clashes with Israeli forces or the SLA are buried.

No information was given on which prisoners were released. Israeli authorities say 250 to 300 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners are held in Khiam. SLA commander Antoine Lahd has said he holds 275 prisoners, and that Israel holds another 100.

In Tehran, Mr. Perez de Cuellar met with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar had said his two-day visit would deal primarily with issues related to the U.N. ceasefire resolution that ended the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

But he also was to meet Wednesday afternoon with families of Iranians missing in Lebanon. Iran has also linked the fate of the Westerners to receiving concrete information of four Iranians kidnapped by militiamen in June 1982.

Mr. Sharoo, speaking on Israel Radio before the Zucker report was released, said that "construction throughout the country is moving at a quick pace," including in the occupied territories.

Mr. Sharon accused the Americans of bowing to Arab pressure by delaying the loan guarantees.

"The American administration, in effect, is standing on the same side as the Arabs who are demanding to make immigration more difficult in order to end it," he said.

Yediot Ahronoth, Israel's largest newspaper, said in an editorial Wednesday that Israel must freeze settlement construction.

"For a long two months, Bush has waited, suppressing his anger over the establishment of settle-

ments every time (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker landed in Israel, and on the growing expansion of settlements," Yedioth wrote.

"Whether we like it or not, if name of the game is freezing settlement construction, if not immediately, then at least in minutes the peace conference convenes," Yedioth wrote.

In Paris, Mr. Shamir predicted Wednesday that strained relations with the United States over the U.S. attempts to link the loan guarantees to Middle East peace moves will be resolved.

"Listen, there are negotiations there are conversations," Mr. Shamir told reporters after his talks with President Francois Mitterrand. "I think we'll find a solution in the end."

## Bush: No specific pledge to Israel

(Continued from page 1)

guarantees were delayed for 120 days as Mr. Bush has requested.

"It is our judgment that if we address the absorption assistance now we risk losing everything we have been working on for the past six months," Mr. Bush said, referring to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's work to set up peace talks.

Mr. Baker is on his way to the Middle East for further talks next week.

"If Congress chooses to press forward now, we stand a very real chance of losing the participation of either our Arab or Israeli negotiating partners," Mr. Bush said.

He said he wanted Mr. Baker to be able to report agreement to defer consideration of the aid until January and added: "Armed with that commitment, he will have the flexibility he needs to try and nail down the remaining modalities for the peace talks."

"Absent such a deferral all parties could well be diverted from the key choices they have yet to make in getting to the negotiating table. The result could well be the loss of the peace process."

Mr. Shamir arrived in Paris Wednesday for talks with President Francois Mitterrand and to address a conference of European conservative parties.

France and Israel differ sharply on Middle East peace, with Mr. Mitterrand insisting that the Palestinians have the right to self-determination, including the possibility of establishing their own state.

He said Monday the Palestinians must be free to choose their own authentic representatives to peace talks.

Mr. Shamir, totally opposed to a Palestinian state, reaffirmed before leaving Israel that his government would attend the proposed peace conference only if the Palestinian delegation excluded Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members or representatives of Arafat East Jerusalem.

Israel Television said Mr. Bush made the decision to hold off on the loan guarantees several weeks ago, after he received report from U.S. officials in Israel that settlement construction had increased dramatically.

"Mr. Bush got angry and he tends to show greater understanding than in the past for Arafat claims that soon there won't be anything left to negotiate," the report said, citing unidentified sources who had spoken to the president.

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## Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 10/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE 11/9/91
Sterling Pound	1.7290	1.7260
Deutsche Mark	1.6957	1.6955
Swiss Franc	1.4804	1.4826
French Franc	5.7915	5.7715 **
Japanese Yen	134.75	134.77
European Currency Unit	1.2115	1.2089**

USD Per STG  
European Opening 10:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.50	5.62	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.06	10.00	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.25	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	7.93	7.68
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.37
Japanese Yen	7.12	6.78	6.50	6.37
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.62	9.68	9.58

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.35	6.70	Silver	4.02	.090

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1879	1.1938
Deutsche Mark	.4056	.4076
Swiss Franc	.4637	.4660
French Franc	.1193	.1199
Japanese Yen	.5096	.5121
Dutch Guilder	.3600	.3618
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira	.0542	.0545
Belgian Franc	.01960	.01970

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7700	1.7750
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0772
Saudi Riyal	.1889	.1897
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7450
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1870
Greek Drachma	.3620	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.5000

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	8/9/91	Change	9/9/91	Change
All-Share	107.40		106.61	
Banking Sector	100.48		99.42	
Insurance Sector	117.88		118.66	
Industry Sector	114.39		113.98	
Services Sector	129.04		127.58	

September 11, 1991

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7250/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1382/87	Canadian dollar
	1.6975/85	Deutsche marks
	1.9120/30	Dutch guilders
	1.4831/38	Swiss francs
	34.93/97	Belgian francs
	5.7700/50	French francs
	1269/1270	Italian lire
	134.90/135.00	Japanese yen
	6.1700/30	Swedish crowns
	6.6380/430	Norwegian crowns
	6.5530/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	346.70/347.20	U.S. dollars

## Gold price tumbles on news of heavy sales by Soviets

LONDON (R) — An already declining gold price gained further downward momentum in Europe Wednesday after a British newspaper report about Soviet gold shipments sparked heavy selling in London.

Bullion had slumped to \$346.25 an ounce shortly after midday in London. That was down from both a previous close in London of \$315 and an early morning price of \$348.

There has been aggressive selling in London... the market is very bearish," said one precious metals dealer.

Gold had already fallen in the United States Tuesday after a Soviet banker warned that the Soviet Union could sell large quantities of bullion.

The weakness spilled into Asian and early European trading, and gained momentum after the Guardian newspaper reported that \$4 billion worth of gold had left the Soviet Union for Switzerland and London.

A senior Soviet banker has warned that wildcat gold sales by increasingly autonomous republics could precipitate a drop in world markets.

"Hasty, uncoordinated activities can very easily 'spoil' the market and lead to a fall in prices for gold," TASS quoted Eduard Gostev, deputy head of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonombank), as saying.

Mr. Gostev was referring to the possibility that some Soviet republics could take advantage of new-found economic autonomy to create their own reserves and make independent sales.

Vneshekonombank, a skilled market operator, controls Soviet gold sales abroad.

Soviet television reported that over the weekend the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan planned to create its own gold reserve, obtained from mines located in the republic.

"The republic will carry out gold-mining independently and will create its own gold reserve," the television quoted a new Uzbek law as saying.

The authoritative daily Izvestia said Uzbekistan, by various estimates, accounted for more than a third of total Soviet gold production, second largest in the world.

It said the republic, which declared independence after last month's failed Soviet coup, produced most of its gold around the town of Zarovshan, where the main object of mining operations is uranium.

Soviet gold output and reserves remain a closely guarded secret, but the country has been under pressure to open up its accounts to Western scrutiny as it moves to introduce a market economy and attract foreign aid and investment.

Izvestia said Soviet gold output had fallen steadily in recent years. Quoting Swiss and U.S. experts, it said sales were outstripping production, which historically runs at about 300 tonnes a year.

Gold reserves were estimated by the foreign sources at between 1,500 and 2,000 tonnes, valued at between \$20 and \$25 billion, a fall of more than 280 tonnes in the 1986-1990 "perestroika" years.

the newspaper said.

Soviet estimates for the country's reserves were between 2,500 and 3,500 tonnes, it said.

The Soviet Union has been forced to draw on its gold reserves to finance imports of grain and other goods and to service its growing foreign debt in recent years. But it has been careful to avoid dumping gold on the world market.

Vneshekonombank has at times appeared in the market to arrange gold swaps — selling gold for immediate cash with an agreement to buy it back later — to avoid oversupplying the market for the precious metal.

There has been no evidence of republics dealing on their own account. TASS quoted both Mr. Gostev and state bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko as saying they had no information about such deals.

There were responding to what TASS referred to as "reports in the foreign mass media" that Kazakhstan intended to sell about a tonne of the Soviet state bank's gold. Kazakh government officials declined immediate comment.

"The change in the political status of individual regions of the USSR could, evidently, influence the role of Soviet gold in the economy of our country and on the world market in the near future," Izvestia said.

"This could lead to the temporary collapse of the entire complex of gold production and refining... a reduction in the volume of production cannot be excluded," it concluded.

## Canadian federal workers strike enters second day

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian airports and docks were disrupted and government services were slowed Tuesday by the second day of a nationwide strike by thousands of public employees who vowed to stay out until the threat of a wage freeze was lifted.

The first-ever general strike by civil service employees in Canada halted grain exports, slowed mail and air traffic and threatened to cut industrial production as off-duty customs officers picketed border traffic.

"The real issue is whether we are running a successful strike and yes we are. We are receiving overwhelming support from our members," said Daryl Bean, president of the striking Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Mr. Bean told a news conference that more than 70,000 members of the union marched off the job on the first day of the strike Monday.

"Today the strike is even stronger," he said.

There was no immediate end in

sight in the face-off between 110,000 union members threatened with a wage freeze and a conservative government determined to cut spending.

The union claimed 95 per cent participation in the strike in many cities.

Numerous flights were delayed early Tuesday at Toronto's Pearson airport, Canada's busiest, and at other airports.

But Air Canada, one of the country's two major air carriers, said it did not expect to cancel any more flights from Toronto after midnight Tuesday.

Essential services such as jails and services for the elderly were not affected.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is protesting against a government three-year contract offer comprising a wage freeze in the first year and rises of three per cent in each of the remaining two years.

Meanwhile, Canada's unemployment rate rose to 10.6 per cent in August, its highest level

since April 1985, pointing to a sluggish recovery from recession.

The number of unemployed rose by 13,000 to 1.46 million, while the number of employed fell 20,000 to 12.34 million, government agency Statistics Canada has said. The jobless rate was 10.5 per cent in July.

"The numbers point to a sluggish recovery," said John Clinkard, a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce economist.

Canada's economy has shown signs of recovering from a recession that started in April, 1990. Gross domestic product grew at an annualized rate of 4.9 per cent in the second quarter of this year after contracting at a rate of 4.6 per cent in the first quarter.

But growth in employment has lagged.

"We have not seen a recovery in the workforce yet," said Jean-Marie Levesque, an analyst with Statistics Canada. "Employers are very hesitant to rehire."

Analysts said consumers have still not recovered the buying confidence needed to boost industrial production.

"I don't think you will see a booming recovery as we have had in the past, as in 1982," said Fred Morley, senior economist with the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. "Consumers are not in the mood for it."

Analysts said the weak unemployment picture should help the Bank of Canada meet its targets of lowering inflation as the higher unemployment could lead to lower inflationary pressures.

## Volume of bank deposits in Jordan hits record

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Rising confidence in the Jordanian banking system after recent relaxations of foreign exchange controls, the return of expatriates with (or without) liquidity from the Gulf and a widely-adopted wait-and-see approach among many Jordanians have worked together to raise deposits with Jordanian commercial banks to an unprecedented level, according to economic analysts and bankers.

Figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) showed that public deposits in banks reached JD 3.25 billion — in both Jordanian dinars and in foreign currency — in July. The amount represents the highest ever level that public deposits have registered in the Kingdom.

Banking executives and economic analysts cite a combination of factors behind the rise. They point out that:

— Some of the expatriates who returned home from the Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis were fortunate to have been able to bring with them their savings and part of the funds has found their way to Jordanian banks.

— Some of the returnees have purchased real estate in the Kingdom and sellers have deposited the proceeds in the banks. On the other hand, returnees who came home without funds have sold property to raise funds and part of the money has gone into the banks.

According to Hussam Azar, a senior official at the Department of Lands and Survey, fees levied by the department on real estate transactions in August registered an almost 100 per cent increase over the corresponding figure for last year.

Most economic analysts believe that funds channelled into banks from proceeds of real estate transactions represent the bulk of the increase in deposits.

— Some investors have quit portfolio trading in the Amman Financial Market and have deposited their capital in the banks.

— Many potential investors have opted to bang on to their deposits rather than turning to investments.

— The level of imports is rising, warranting mandatory minimum deposits for letters of credit and letters of guarantees.

— Cash injected by the CBJ to support some banking institutions in the past years is visible in the banking system.

— The low interest on dollar deposits abroad has prompted many to convert their money into Jordanian dinars and repatriate the funds to Jordan.

— The recent relaxation of some of the foreign exchange controls, including the raising of a ceiling on deposits in foreign currency, have encouraged many to deposit their cash in banks.

— Expatriate remittances which dried up during the Gulf crisis are gradually trickling again.

"All Jordanian banks are now enjoying a high level of liquidity and none of them have to approach the CBJ for help," said the manager of an international bank operating in Jordan.

The recent CBJ directive raising the ceiling on resident foreign currency accounts to JD 500,000 from JD 150,000 has helped the situation in that many depositors are bringing back their funds from abroad, he said.

The banker, who preferred anonymity, said that many of his depositors appeared reluctant to shift away from the security of bank deposits and invest elsewhere.

"I think there is a feeling that it is time for reflections rather than new ventures and it has a lot to do with the present political situation in the region," he added.

At the same time, he added, "the trend is to return to investments sooner or later; it is only a matter of time."

Ministry of Industry and Trade statistics indicate a steady registration of new companies, but the total capital involved — less than JD 10 million for over 80 new entities since the beginning of the year — is seen as insignificant in the context of commercial bank deposits.

Jawad Al Anani, a commentator on economic issues, said part of the deposits could also reflect overdraft facilities extended by commercial banks.

"In many cases, the overdraft facilities given to clients show up as deposits," said Dr. Anani, a former minister.

There was no immediate way to determine what percentage of the total deposits represented overdraft figures, but bankers said it was of an insignificant level.

Abdullah Malki, head of the Association of Banks in Jordan, said no definite trend or pattern based on present level of commercial bank deposits could be established since the duration involved is relatively short.

"It is too early to detect or predict any pattern or trend," he said. "Things could change any time."

"Many have adopted a wait-and-see attitude before turning in any direction with their deposits," Dr. Malki said. "The pointedly depressed level of trading and share prices in the Amman Financial Market is one of the significant indicators of this approach," he said.

Dealers in the share market said they could find little fresh interest entering the field while some investors are converting their holdings into liquid money.

"For the moment, everybody appears to be very cautious ahead of the (proposed Middle East) peace conference," said one portfolio executive. "It is widely accepted that the conference could be a dramatic turning point in the economic course of the region, but few people are actually hedging their bets," added the dealer, who preferred anonymity.

## Delors says \$2b food needed for Soviet Union

STRASBOURG, France (R) —

European Commission President Jacques Delors said Wednesday at least \$2 billion of food aid is needed to help the Soviet Union.

He also urged other industrialized countries to join an EC-led rescue bid.

"It seems to me that the amount must not be less than \$2 billion and this operation should encourage the United States and

Japan and Canada to join in," he told the European Parliament.

"We cannot just try taking this on our own and then let the others benefit from the successes. It would be too easy," he added.

He said the aid should be used to buy food from Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to export to the Soviet Union.

"What we need is a triangular operation to finance food exports

from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary so that we can achieve two objectives in one go," he said.

EC officials said the figure was global and included EC contributions already agreed.

The 12-nation bloc has already agreed upon 750 million ECUs (European Currency Units) (\$900 million) in food aid and credits, and 400 million ECUs (\$480 million) in technical assistance. Little of this has already reached the Soviet Union.

Mr. Delors said it was essential food supplies reached the shops to keep the peace after the failed coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"If you don't take popular measures, what is going to happen?" he asked Euro-MPs.

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## Croatian forces, Serb guerrillas continue fighting in dozen towns

**BELGRADE (R)** — Croatian forces and Serbian guerrillas clashed in a dozen towns and villages across the rebel Yugoslav republic Wednesday.

A fierce guerrilla mortar barrage forced Croatian commanders to close a bridge at Maslenica which was central Croatia's last remaining direct link with most of its Adriatic coastline.

Maslenica is on the edge of the mountainous Krajina region where Serbian guerrillas agreed Tuesday to abide by a European Community (EC) ceasefire that has so far been powerless to halt the country's ethnic strife.

Local Serbs seized control of Krajina a year ago and set up an autonomous "government" after driving out Croatian police.

Fighting has steadily intensified on Krajina's borders in the last few days in a campaign by the guerrillas for territorial gains in Croatia.

The towns of Gospić, Obrovac, Zadar and villages around them were hit by mortar fire Wednesday. Croatian forces and the guerrillas blamed each other for the clashes.

Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjog, said an 85-year-old woman was killed and two children were injured in Obrovac which has a mainly Croat population.

Zagreb Radio accused guerrillas backed by the army of attacking the village of Jasenice near Obrovac with tank, mortar and artillery fire.

Responsibility for the fighting was denied by Milan Martić, commander of the Krajina guerrillas, who said Croatian forces fired first.

"We replied fiercely and now the other side is asking for a truce which it always does when it finds itself in an inconvenient position," he told Tanjog.

The Krajina guerrillas' agreement with EC special envoy Henri Wijnandts was that they would not fire first.

It was not clear whether it applied to their forays outside Krajina.

Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia say more than 460 people have been killed in fighting on their soil since they declared independence from the Balkan federation in June. The number of

guerrillas killed is not known.

The 600,000 Serb minority among Croatia's 4.5 million population are fighting rule by an independent Croatian government which they believe would victimise them.

They have captured control of up to one third of Croatia in anticipation of eventual peace talks which will focus on new borders between the feuding republics.

Zagreb Radio said fighting continued in Eastern Croatia which has been cut off from the rest of the republic by guerrillas and army units blocking roads.

Osijek, the main town in the region which borders Serbia, was rocked by explosions during the night and guerrillas shelled surrounding Croat villages, it said.

Tanjog said Croatian forces badly damaged an army garrison clinic in a suburb of Osijek where EC observers have been monitoring repeated ceasefire violations.

Zagreb Radio reported that Croatian forces were still in control of Kostajnica south east of the Croatian capital despite four days of intensive attacks by guer-

illas trying to capture it.

The town is on the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina which many Yugoslavs fear may be drawn into the fighting. Relations are strained between its Muslim, Croat and Serb minorities.

The Croatian and Bosnian governments agreed Tuesday that neither should allow its territory to be used as a springboard for attacks on the other.

Meanwhile the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia voted overwhelmingly for independence from the rest of the federation in a referendum last weekend, according to official results released Tuesday.

Tanjog said 95 per cent of voters in Sunday's poll wanted the southernmost republic to become a sovereign and independent state with the right to join an alliance of sovereign states of Yugoslavia.

Macedonia, a poor republic of 2.1 million people bordering Greece, Bulgaria and Albania, is the third of Yugoslavia's six republics to vote for independence in a gradual unravelling of the 72-year-old federation.

## Death toll nears 100 in latest S. African warfare

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — At least five people were reported killed in widespread violence in Black South African townships early Wednesday, raising the death toll from four days of turmoil to almost 100.

Police spokesmen said they were having difficulty keeping track because of the scale of the fighting, but counted at least 30 killed in the giant black city of Soweto and 64 in other townships since the violence was ignited by an ambush of a group of political activists Sunday.

Heavy police and army reinforcements dispatched to the townships Tuesday appeared to have had only a limited effect.

Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), whose followers are locked in bitter fighting with supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), met president F.W. de Klerk Tuesday night to discuss the mayhem which is threatening peace accords at leadership level.

No details were released other than a bland statement that the two had made progress in areas of "mutual interest" and would meet again "in due course."

The ANC has suspended talks with the government on a post-apartheid constitution until political violence, which has killed more than 3,000 people in a year, is halted.

It accuses white leaders of ganging up with Inkatha against it, a charge the others strongly deny.

A church-sponsored summit Saturday is due to produce a peace accord signed by Inkatha, the ANC and the government designed to restore calm in the townships, but the latest outbreak of violence has thrown doubts on the leaders' ability to deliver on their agreements.

Black communities busing millions around Johannesburg, the industrial heart of the nation, have been torn by attacks and reprisals since 24 Inkatha supporters were cut down by mysterious gunmen with assault rifles Sunday.

Police said six backed, stabbed or shot bodies were found after overnight violence and at least five were known to have been killed in fresh attacks after dawn.

A hand grenade was hurled into a commuter bus in Thokoza township, scene of Sunday's ambush, killing at least one passenger, according to police. The driver lost control, and his vehicle ploughed into people on the pavement, injuring several.

A white woman died from bullet wounds in her head and neck after a gun fight between a policeman and an unidentified man on the main road past teen-age Park square camp near Thokoza, but police said that incident was connected with a robbery and was not directly related to political unrest.

Two people were killed in a gun attack on commuters at Thokoza Railway Station just after dawn.

Many of the attacks overnight and early Wednesday — in Soweto, Alexandra, Sebokeng and Kwatama townships as well as the Thokoza area — were by hit-and-run gunmen, residents and police said.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus Wednesday repeated his organisation's allegations that a shadowy third force was behind the fighting.

The ANC has long accused white hardliners of sowing division and hatred among blacks to maintain white supremacy, but no conclusive evidence has been produced.

Independent analysts say much of the fighting springs from political intolerance in deprived black communities denied normal democratic procedures by decades of ruthlessly-imposed apartheid.

Meanwhile a man testified Tuesday at a judicial inquest that police ordered hit squads to kill black opposition leaders and tried to cover up security force involvement.

Sipho Madlala, who has claimed to be formerly belonged in a police hit squad, spoke at the inquiry into the killing of Mkhazana Maphumulo, a tribal leader from Natal province shot to death in February.

Anti-apartheid groups have long claimed South African police and the military operated death squads that attacked opposition figures.

Previous judicial inquiries have found that hit squad activity occurred but said there was no evidence of government involvement.

Tuesday's testimony came as black faction fighting continued.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### EC adopts \$1.56 in research programmes

**BRUSSELS (R)** — The European Community has approved about \$1.5 billion in funding for four research programmes covering topics such as "clean" cars, land erosion, AIDS and solar energy, the European Commission (EC) has said. EC ministers adopted programmes on industrial and materials technologies, agriculture, biomedical research and non-nuclear energy, the commission said in a statement. There are part of a 5.7 billion European Currency Unit (\$6.8 billion) EC scheme designed to boost the competitiveness of European industry by promoting cross-border research and development projects from 1990 to 1994. Costs are shared by participating companies and research institutes.

#### 'U.S. will not neglect Senegal, Africa'

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President George Bush forgave Senegal's \$42 million debt when he welcomed President Abdou Diouf of Senegal to the White House, and vowed that Africa will not be neglected as rapid changes sweep other parts of the world. Mr. Diouf was given a formal welcome at the White House, reviewing a military Honour Guard before both leaders made remarks. "Future generations will look to our age and say here, here in the 1990s began the new world order," Mr. Bush said, hailing Senegal as "not only an old dear friend to Washington, but a friend who shares our values, who will fight for freedom."

#### India enacts law to protect shrines

**NEW DELHI (R)** — India's parliament has passed a law protecting religious shrines, but rightwing Hindus said it will lead to more Hindu-Muslim violence. The law prohibits converting any place of worship that existed at the time of India's independence from Britain in 1947. It exempts a 450-year-old mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, the focus of rioting that led to the fall of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh's National Front government last November. Saffron-clad deputies of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) tore up copies of the legislation as they stormed out of the Lok Sabha (lower house) before the final vote. BJP's Lal Krishna Advani, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, said he feared the law "will increase (religious) tensions and not defuse them." His colleague Madan Lal Khurana added: "There will be riots across the country if the bill is passed." Home (Interior) Minister Shankarrao Chavan, introducing the bill, said he hoped the law would "foreclose any new controversies about places of religious worship. There has been an alarming rise in intolerance in the country," he said.

#### Quayle arrives in Malawi

**LILONGWE, Malawi (R)** — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle arrived in Malawi Tuesday night on the third leg of a five-nation African tour to emphasize Washington's continued interest in the debt-ridden continent.

Mr. Quayle flew to Lilongwe from Nigeria and was spending the night at the U.S. ambassador's residence before breakfasting with some of Malawi's cabinet members Wednesday morning. He was then due to fly south to Blantyre and see the country's massive refugee problem at first hand with a visit to the big Chifunga Camp housing up to 100,000 refugees who have fled the 15-year civil war in neighbouring Mozambique. Mr. Quayle will fly to Namibia late Wednesday after talks with Malawi's President for Life Dr. Kamuzu Banda.

#### U.N. assembly to open in the morning

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — In a break with tradition, the annual General Assembly session will this year open in the morning instead of the afternoon on Sept. 17, a U.N. spokesman has announced. This is chiefly because there are three candidates for the post of assembly president and balloting could take some time. Another factor is that seven countries are expected to join the world organisation and the United Nations wants the traditional flag-raising ceremonies which follow in the U.N. courtyard to be held during daylight. The session will open at 10.30 a.m. (1430 GMT).

#### Pakistani cabinet shuffled

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)** — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reshuffled his cabinet, adding 11 new ministers and 18 deputy ministers and filling the vacant foreign affairs and defence posts. It was the first major cabinet change since Mr. Sharif took office last November and appeared aimed at balancing the power blocks within his fragile Islamic Democratic Alliance. Mr. Sharif kept the defence since taking office and held on to the foreign affairs portfolio after Sahabzada Yaqub Khan retired from politics in March. But the prime minister had been under increasing pressure in recent weeks to fill the posts. While Sharif still kept the foreign affairs portfolio, he appointed as his Deputy Minister Mohammad Siddiqui Khan Kanjani, a virtual unknown. He also chose as his Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah, a former judge and protégé of the late Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq. Ali Shah was chief minister, or the highest elected official, in southern Sindh province in 1986-87 during the worst ethnic riots.

#### NATO hold big manoeuvres

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)** — Troops from seven NATO countries fanned out over eastern Denmark Tuesday in a month-long manoeuvre to test the deployment of the alliance's mobile force. But the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) troops are no longer practicing to protect Denmark against an invasion by the Red Army and the Warsaw Pact. "Deterrence" is still the official term, but in the light of the recent week's events in the Soviet Union, for example, I think it's the wrong one," said Maj.-Gen. Peter Heinrich Carstens, chief of the allied mobile force. He said the mobile force is now practicing "Crisis management" or acting to head off crisis. He said "Deterrence" was a concept of the cold war, and, "fortunately times have changed." About 15,000 soldiers arrived by air and sea and 1,000 are deployed on the main island of Zealand and the southern Baltic archipelago to take part in action Express '91, as the manoeuvre is called.

#### Concorde loses part of rudder

**LONDON (R)** — A British Airways (BA) Concorde flying at more than twice the speed of sound probably lost part of its rudder because paint stripper destroyed adhesives binding it, the Times newspaper said Wednesday. Commenting on the report, a BA spokesman said there could be no repeat of the incident, which happened as the airliner flew over the Atlantic in January. It landed safely in New York. The Times, quoting air accident investigators, said the crew felt an engine surge and an unusual vibration as the Concorde decelerated. When it landed a part of the rudder was missing. Tests showed that paint stripper used to clean the plane could have weakened adhesives on the rudder, the Times said.

#### U.S. serial killer enters insanity plea

**MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (R)** — Jeffrey Dahmer pleaded insanity to charges that he killed 15 young men and boys in a self-confessed rampage of sex and dismemberment. Mr. Dahmer's lawyer entered pleas of not guilty and "not guilty by reason of mental defect" to each of the 15 murder charges brought against the 31-year-old former chocolate factory worker. The not-guilty plea means prosecutors will bear the burden of proving Mr. Dahmer's guilt in the first phase of a trial, and, if convicted, Dahmer's lawyer would have to prove that he was not competent in a second phase of the trial. The trial was set for Jan. 27. At the proceeding Tuesday before Judge Lawrence Gram Jr. of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Mr. Dahmer's lawyer, Gerald Boyle, said he was leaving open the option of changing the plea before trial.

## COLUMN

### Harsh words for Princess Diana from her father

**LONDON (R)** — The father of Britain's Princess Diana has chided her in a newspaper interview for infrequent visits to the family mansion and said she had no idea about handling money. The elderly Earl Spencer was commenting about reports the Spencer family is split over the sale of heirlooms from the ancestral estate, Althorp House, and the redecoration of the mansion by his second wife Raine. "Well she's (Princess Diana) been on the telephone and I think it's Raine's new decor that she doesn't like. But why she has to make such a fuss I don't know because she seldom visits, only at Easter and Christmas," Earl Spencer was quoted as saying.

The earl said the estate had been landed with huge taxes but he had still given his 30-year-old daughter "a helluva lot of money" which she had invested for her second son, six-year-old Prince Harry. "You know children aren't grateful. They never even thank you for their pocket money apparently," he said in the Daily Mail interview. "Diana doesn't understand about money. She's too young." The earl said he was still in contact with his children. "Of course I haven't stopped speaking to Diana or my son Charles," he told the Daily Mail. The earl's wife Raine, daughter of romantic novelist Barbara Cartland, hit back at people who accused her being the "wicked stepmother" selling off the Spencer children's heritage. She said she and her husband had been hard pressed by the recession and had no choice but to sell some treasures from the 80-room family seat, set in thousands of acres of farmland in the central English county of Northamptonshire.

**Group claims to have found 'lost squadron'**  
ST. AUGUSTINE, Florida (AP) — Researchers who recovered the wreckage of a World War II vintage airplane off the coast of Cape Canaveral have said they believe it belonged to the legendary lost squadron. The remains of the badly deteriorated Avenger torpedo bomber were hoisted 120 metres from the ocean floor on Aug. 13, about 50 kilometres off the Florida coast by a group of aviation historians. "My partners and I believe this aircraft is indeed not only one of Flight 19's aircraft, but a specific aircraft, FT-117, flown by Marine Corps Capt. William Stivers Jr.," said Jon F. Myhre, one of the group's founders. "We firmly believe that this is indeed the first aircraft of Flight 19 that ditched almost 46 years ago," he said. Stivers was the pilot of one of the five navy Avengers that disappeared on Dec. 5, 1945 after departing on a training mission from Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station. The five aircraft carried 14 men, but no human remains were found in the aircraft wreckage, which carried a crew of three. "They flew off into legend," said Dianne Lawes, a writer and partner in the so-called Project 19. "We like to call it the first victim of the Bermuda Triangle."

**Youngest contestant becomes Miss Italy**  
SALSOMAGGIORE, Italy (AP) — Martina Colombani's father didn't want her to enter the Miss Italy contest because he feared she would win — and he was right. The 16-year-old, youngest of 60 contestants, was judged Italy's top beauty. Colombani still has her Barbie doll and when she goes dancing, her aunt accompanies her, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported from this thermal spa resort Sunday. The long-haired blonde, sporting a one-piece swimsuit made by the contest's sponsor, was crowned Miss Italy Saturday night by one of the judges, Alain Delon, the French actor, Maurizio Colombani, her father, stayed at home in Riccione, an Adriatic beach town where he runs a restaurant. "I was afraid she would win and that her studies would suffer," the elder Colombani was quoted as telling ANSA about his objections to his daughter's competition. The beauty was accompanied to the contest by her mother. After winning, the teenager was invited to dine with the handsome Delon. "But Delon isn't one of my idols," the winner confessed. "If I really had to choose an actor to have dinner with, I would have preferred Richard Gere," ANSA quoted her as saying.

## U.S. backs Taylor demands for Liberia peace force

**ABUJA, Nigeria (Agencies)** — The United States backs rebel leader Charles Taylor's demands that a six-nation West African army in the Liberian capital be broadened, a senior U.S. envoy to Africa has said.

Mr. Taylor, who controls most of the country outside Monrovia, has said he will disarm only if troops from Senegal, Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissan join the existing West African force. The force now is made up of soldiers from Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Mali under the command of Nigerians, whom Mr. Taylor considers hostile.

The West Africans fought Mr. Taylor's men when they sailed into Monrovia last October, dashing his hopes for taking the city. Mr. Taylor's rebels have overrun the rest of Liberia.

Leonard Robinson, deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said Washington supports Mr. Taylor's conditions.

However, Mr. Robinson also said Mr. Taylor's charges that the United States was behind renewed fighting on the border between Liberia and Sierra

Leone were "absolutely absurd." Mr. Robinson spoke in an interview with the Associated Press before leaving Nigeria with Vice President Dan Quayle, who is on a five-nation Africa tour.

Renewed fighting erupted last week with an invasion from Sierra Leone by remnants of slain Liberian President Samuel Doe's troops, whom Mr. Taylor claimed were being trained and armed by Washington.

Liberian exiles pressing their attack on Mr. Taylor said Tuesday they had captured two Liberian counties and were 160 kilometres inside the country.

The United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO) said its forces controlled Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Hills counties and were attacking Lofa County, all in western Liberia.

Raleigh Seckie, the organisation's chairman, told reporters in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown that ULIMO's casualties had been light and that dozens of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels had defected to ULIMO.

## Moscow announces talks to pull troops out of Cuba

**MOSCOW (R)** — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday his government would soon begin discussions with Cuba on withdrawing 11,000 Soviet troops from the island.

"We will soon begin discussions with Cuban leaders about the withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade in Cuba," Mr. Gorbachev told a news conference after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Gorbachev said the brigade numbered about 11,000 men. He predicted the talks would begin in the immediate future, adding the problem "won't take months to address."

Mr. Baker called the announcement "a very substantial gesture (that) points up exactly what President Gorbachev and I said this morning in that there are new opportunities" created by the new political situation in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow would continue to have a good relationship with Havana. "We certainly will continue to have mutual beneficial commercial ex-



Mikhail Gorbachev

changes with Cuba."

The United States had long urged Moscow to cut aid to the Caribbean island whose Communist government led by Fidel Castro has been a thorn in the side of U.S. administrations for more than 30 years.

In 1962 the island was at the centre of a superpower confrontation over the stationing of Soviet medium-ranged nuclear missiles there.

## Sri Lankan rebel chief denies Gandhi killing

**NEW DELHI (R)** — The elusive leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas has denied his group was involved in the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, an Indian newspaper said Wednesday.

"We had nothing to do with the assassination," Velupillai Prabhakaran was quoted as saying. "The (Indian) police started off with the premise that we are responsible."

The Indian Express said a correspondent of the U.S. magazine Time conducted the rare interview with Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the Tiger stronghold of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.

Officials allege the LTTE, fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, sent a woman suicide bomber to kill Mr. Gandhi on May 21 in India's southern Tamil Nadu state, which lies close to the island.

Mr. Gandhi, whose family had governed India for most of its 44 years since independence from Britain, had many enemies.

His mother, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi was also high on the list of Sikhs battling for a separate homeland in India's Punjab state.

Suspicion fell on the LTTE partly because Mr. Gandhi was killed far from any known Sikh base and partly because, unlike Sikh militants, the LTTE carries out suicide attacks.

Police said last month both prime suspects in organising Mr. Gandhi's killing had committed suicide when they were cornered in south India.

Mr. Prabhakaran was quoted as suggesting Sikhs could have been responsible, adding: "Other groups may have borrowed our technique."

## Sri Lankan leader accused of arming rebels

**COLOMBO (R)** — A dissident leader of Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party has accused President Ranasinghe Premadasa of arming and helping Tamil separatist guerrillas during peace talks last year.

Lalith Athulathmudali, leader of a dissident group trying to impeach the president, told a massive public rally that Mr. Premadasa "armed the rebels, gave them new vehicles and cash and cement to build their bunkers while peace talks were on."

"If Britain's Winston Churchill did the same thing to the Germans during World War II, would not his people have impeached him?" Mr. Athulathmudali, a former minister of education, asked at the rally outside Colombo.

The government held peace talks for 14 months until June 1990 with Tamil rebels who were then fighting Indian troops,

trying to implement a peace pact. The rebels broke off peace talks with the government in June after the Indians left the island, and turned their guns on Sri Lankan troops and the police.

"The rebels who were armed by this government finally turned their guns on our people," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

Government spokesmen were not available for comment on the former minister's allegations.

But political analysts said Mr. Premadasa had armed the rebels because he was also against Indian troops who arrived on the island in July 1987 at the invitation of his predecessor, President Junius Jayewardene.

Mr. Premadasa, then prime minister, opposed the decision on the grounds that foreign forces were a threat to the island's sovereignty.

Mr. Premadasa, elected in December 1988, is fighting a chal-

lenge from 120 opposition and government members of parliament who signed the impeachment motion.

The motion, given to speaker Haniffa Mohammad two weeks ago, lists 24 charges against Mr. Premadasa of abuse of power, corruption, violation of the constitution and illegal family deals.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International said Wednesday Sri Lankan Armed Forces and Tamil separatists have killed thousands of people in recent months, with some victims hacked or burned to death.

The London-based human rights group said a research team it sent to Sri Lanka earlier this year had returned with evidence of widespread violence by both the army and guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, (LTTE), known as the Tamil Tigers.

## Researcher claims clear evidence that AIDS began in Africa

**LIVERPOOL, England (R)** — Virus samples from African monkeys provide the clearest evidence yet that AIDS originated in Africa, AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo has said.

Dr. Gallo's statement is the latest development in a long-standing controversy about the origin of the killer disease, now affecting people on every continent.

Scientists have believed for years that the HIV virus that causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) originated in Africa, but many Africans regard the evidence as flimsy.

Gallo told a British pharmaceutical society meeting that Beatrice Hahn, a researcher at the University of Alabama, presented his U.S. laboratory last week with samples of a virus taken from several wild African monkeys that were virtually identical to human HIV virus.

"The monkey virus is the closest yet found to HIV-2 (a variation of the virus)," Dr. Gallo said.

"This is the best proof yet that

HIV came into humans from the African monkey," he said.

Dr. Gallo, who co-discovered the AIDS virus along with French researcher Luc Montagnier, said however that there was no evidence that the epidemic itself began in Africa.

"The real take-off of the disease was simultaneous in Europe, the U.S. and Africa," he said.

Dr. Gallo theorised that people who lived in the African bush may have contracted AIDS from monkeys on rare occasions for decades, but because the victims were isolated the disease never spread.

During the 1960s, war and modernisation disrupted many isolated agrarian African cultures and set off mass migration to cities, setting up the circumstances that eventually allowed the virus to spread, he said.

"The epidemic was due to societal changes," he said.

Some black activists have charged that claims that the virus originated in Africa are racist because scientists have no way of knowing with complete certainty

where the virus started.

AIDS destroys the body's immune system and can be transmitted only through blood fluids, usually through sexual intercourse or intravenous drug use.

Meanwhile in a separate development, Protestant clergy in Desancon, France, have changed the traditional communion rite because of parishioners' fears that drinking from a common container of wine might spread AIDS or other diseases.

The Rev. Marc Weiss said Wednesday the governing council of the Reformed Church of France in this southern city decided to make the change as a precautionary step "because there isn't any absolute scientific certainty on the subject."

Henceforth, worshippers partaking in communion will dip their piece of bread in the wine and consume them simultaneously.

Traditionally, bread and wine were passed out separately. The wine was sipped from a common vessel, with the pastor wiping the rim between each communicant.